





THE
Life and Adventures
OF
ROXANA,

The FORTUNATE MISTRESS, or,
Most UNHAPPY WIFE.

IN THREE PARTS.

CONTAINING,

- I. An Account of her Birth in France, and coming to England.—II. Her marriage in London with a Brewer, who run out of his Estate, and left her with five Children.—III. Her cohabiting with her Landlord; their Journey to Paris, where he was robbed and murdered.—IV. Her being fell in Love with by the Prince of —; and seeing her husband in the Gens d'arms Guard. The Prince leaves her, &c.—V. The Dealings she had with a Dutch Merchant and a Jew, the latter of whom wanted to defraud her of a great part of her jewels: her going to Rotterdam, where she sees the Dutch Merchant, to whom she soon after became a Bedfellow.—VI. Her Return to England, where she had the Name of Roxana. Her Marriage with the Dutch Merchant in London, who was naturalized and created a Baronet. The Miseries she and her Maid Amy afterwards fell into.

*Adorned with a curious Print of Roxana, in her
Turkish Dress.*

L O N D O N:

Printed for S. CROWDER, in PATER-NOSTER ROW,
and S. GAMIDGE, in WORCESTER. 1765.



Roxana in Her



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P R E F A C E.

THE history of this Beautiful Lady must speak for itself: if it is not as beautiful as the Lady herself is reported to be; if it is not as diverting as the reader can desire, and much more than he can reasonably expect; and if all parts of it are not adapted to the instruction and improvement of the reader, the Relator says, it must be from the defect of his performance, dressing up the story in worse cloaths than the Lady, whose words he speaks, prepared it for the world.

He takes the liberty to say, that this story differs from most of the modern performances of this kind, in this great and essential article, that the foundation of this is laid in truth of fact; and so the work is not a Story but a History.

The scene is laid so near the place where the main part of it was transacted, that it was necessary to conceal names and persons; lest what cannot yet be entirely forgot, should be recollected, and the facts traced back too plainly, by many persons yet living, who would know the persons by the particulars.

In the manner she has told the story, it is evident she does not pretend to her own justification in any one part of it; much less does she recommend her conduct, or indeed any part of it, except her repentance, to our imitation.

It is true she met with unexpected success in all her wicked courses; but even in the highest elevations of her prosperity, she makes frequent acknowledgments, that the pleasure of her wickedness was not worth the repentance; and that all the satisfaction she had, all the joy in view of her prosperity, all the wealth she rowled

in, the gayety of her appearance, the equipages and the honour she was attended with, could not quiet her mind, abate the reproaches of her conscience, or procure her an hour's sleep, when just reflections kept her waking.

If there be any parts in her story, which being obliged to relate a wicked action, seem to describe it too plainly, all imaginable care has been taken to keep clear of indecencies and immodest expressions; and 'tis hoped nothing will be found to prompt a vicious mind, but every where much to discourage and expose it.

Scenes of wickedness can scarce be represented in such a manner, but some may make a criminal use of them; but when vice is painted in its odious colours, it is not to make people in love with it, but to abhor it; and if the reader make a wrong use of the figures, the wickedness is his own.

In the mean time the advantages of the present work are so great, and the virtuous reader has room for so much improvement, that we make no question, the story, however meanly told, will find a passage to his best hours, and be read with profit and delight.

T H E



T H E
A D V E N T U R E S
O F
R O X A N A.
P A R T I.
C H A P. I.

The birth, parentage, education, and marriage of Roxana, with a brief history of her life to the elopement of her husband; who leaves her with five children. The fidelity of Amy her maid-servant; by whose means her children are provided for.

I Was born, as my friends told me, at the city of Poitiers, in the province or county of Poictou, in France; from whence I was brought by my parents, who fled for their religion, to England, about the year 1683, when the protestants were banished from France.

I, who knew little or nothing of what I was brought over hither for, was well enough pleased with being here: London, a large and gay city, took with me mighty well; and I retained nothing of France but the language.

My father and mother being people of better fashion than ordinarily the people called refugees at that time were; and having fled early, while it was easy to secure their effects, had, before their coming over, remitted considerable sums of money: so that he was far from applying to the rest of our nation that were here for countenance or relief. On the contrary, he had his doors continually crouded with

numbers of the poor starving creatures, fled hither for shelter on account of conscience.

I was about eleven years old when I was brought over hither: as I have said, my father was in very good circumstances, and died about eleven years after. In that time I had accomplished myself for the sociable part of the world, and got acquainted with some of our English neighbours, as is customary in London. While I was young, I had picked up three or four play-fellows and companions, suitable to my years; so, as we grew bigger, we learnt to call one another intimates and friends: and this very much forwarded the finishing me for conversation.

I went to English schools, and, being young, learnt the English tongue perfectly well, with all the customs of the English young women; nor did I so much as keep any remains of the French-language tagged to my way of speaking, but spoke what we call natural English.

I was, at about fourteen years of age, tall and well made; sharp as a hawk, in matters of common knowledge; quick and smart in discourse; apt to be satirical; full of repartee; and a little too forward in conversation; and, as we call it in English, bold, tho' perfectly modest in my behaviour. Being French born, I danced, as some say, naturally, loved it extremely, and sung well also; and so well, that it was of some advantage to me afterwards.

At about fifteen years of age, my father gave me 25000 livres, that is to say, 2000 l. sterling, and married me to an eminent brewer in the city. Pardon me if I conceal his name, for, tho' he was the foundation of my ruin, I cannot take so severe a revenge upon him.

With this thing called a husband, I lived eight years in good fashion, and for some part of the time kept a coach, that is to say, a kind of mock coach; for all the week the horses were kept at work in the

dray-cart, but on Sunday I had the privilege to go abroad in my chariot, either to church, or elsewhere, as my husband and I could agree about it.

Before I proceed in the history of the married part of my life, you must allow me to give as impartial an account of my husband, as I have done of myself. He was a jolly handsome fellow, as any woman need wish for a companion; tall and well made; rather a little too large, but not so as to be ungenteel; he danced well, which, I think, was the first thing that brought us together. He had an old father that managed the business, so that he had little of that part lay on him, but now and then to appear and shew himself. He went abroad, kept company, hunted much, and loved it exceedingly.

After I have told you he was a handsome man, and a good sportsman, I have indeed said all; and unhappy was I, like other young people of our sex, I chose him for being a handsome jolly fellow, for he was otherwise a weak empty-headed, untaught creature, as any woman could desire to be coupled with. And here I must take the liberty, whatever I have to reproach myself with in my after conduct, to address myself to the young ladies of this country, by way of precaution: if you have any regard to your future happiness, any view of living comfortably with a husband, never, ladies marry a fool: with some other husbands you may be unhappy, with a fool you must be miserable; nay if he would, he cannot make you easy; every thing he does is so awkward, every thing he says so empty, that a woman of any sense must be surfeited and sick of him twenty times a day. What is more shocking than for a woman to bring a handsome comely fellow of a husband into company, and then be obliged to blush for him whenever she hears him speak? to hear other gentlemen speak sense, and be able to say nothing, and so look like a fool; or,

which is worse. hear him talk nonsense, and so be laughed at for one. Therefore, ladies, take any thing but a fool: nay, be any thing ; be even an old maid, the worst of nature's curses, rather than marry a fool.

In the first place, he was a conceited fool; every thing he said, was right, was best, was most to the purpose, whoever was in company, or whatever was advanced by others, tho' with the greatest modesty imaginable, and yet, when he came to defend what he had said, by argument and reason, he would do it so weakly, so emptily, so nothing to the purpose, that it was enough to make any body who heard him sick and ashamed of him.

Secondly, he was positive and obstinate, and the most positive in the most simple inconsistent things, such as it was intollerable to bear.

These two articles, if there had been no more, qualified him to be a most unbearable creature for a husband; and so it may be supposed, at first sight, what a kind of a life I led with him: however, I did as well as I could, and held my tongue, which was the only victory I gained over him.

After I had been married about four years, my father died, my mother having been dead before. He had so little reason to be satisfied with the conduct of my husband, that though he left me 5000 livres, yet he left it in the hands of my elder brother, who running on too rashly in his adventures, as a merchant, failed, and lost not only what he had, but my legacy too.

Within two years after my father's death, my husband's father also died, and, as I thought, left him a considerable addition to his estate, the whole trade of the brewhouse.

But this addition to his stock was his ruin, for he had no genius to business; he had no knowledge of his accounts; he bustled indeed a little about it at first

and put on a face of business, but he soon grew slack. It was below him to inspect his books, he committed all that to his clerks and book-keepers; and while he found cash to pay his maltman and the excise, and put some in his pocket, he was perfectly easy and indolent, let the main chance go how it would.

However, to cut short a dull story, he began to find his trade sunk, his stock declined, and that he could not carry on his business, and once or twice his brewing utensils were seized upon for the excise.

This alarmed him, and he resolved to lay down his trade, which, indeed, I was not sorry for. I was willing he should draw out while he had something left, lest I should come to be stript at home, and be turned out of doors with my children; for I had now five by him; the only thing, perhaps, that fools are good for.

I thought myself happy when he got another man to take his brewhouse off his hands; for paying down a large sum of money, my husband found himself a clear man, all his debts paid, and between two and three thousand pounds in his pocket; and being now obliged to remove from the brewhouse, we took a house at Epping.

I proposed to him either to buy some place with the money, or with part of it, and offered to join my legacy to it, which was then in being, and might have been secured; so we might have lived tolerably, at least during his life. But he neglected it, lived on as he did before, and nothing was done. The money decreased apace, and I saw my ruin hastening on without any possible way to prevent it.

It was not above three years that all the ready money was thus spending off; when, one morning, my husband told me he was sensible we were come to a miserable condition, and he would go and seek his fortune somewhere or other. He, however, staid at

home all that day, and lay at home that night. Early the next morning he gets out of bed, goes to a window which looked out towards the stables, and sounds his French-horn; which was his usual signal to call his men to go out a hunting. It was about the latter end of August, and so was light at five o'clock, which was the time I heard him and his two men go out, and shut the yard-gates after them.

It must be a little surprising to the reader, to tell at once, that after this, I never saw my husband more, nor ever heard from him or of him, neither of either of the two servants, or the horses, what became of them, or whether they went, no more than if the ground had opened and swallowed them all up, and nobody had known it.

I was not, the first night or two, at all surprised, nor very much the first week or two, believing if any thing evil had befallen them, I should soon enough have heard of that; and also knowing that he had two servants and three horses with him, it would be the strangest thing in the world that any thing could befall them all, but I must, some time or other, hear of it.

It is easy to suppose, that, as time run on, 'I was dreadfully frightened; and the more when I looked into my own circumstances, and considered the condition in which I was left. What to do, or whom to have recourse to, I knew not; to keep the house I could not, the rent was too great; and to leave it without my husband's order, if he should return, I could not think of, so that I continued extremely perplexed, melancholy, and disconsolate.

I remained in this dejected condition near a twelve-month. My husband had two sisters, who were married, and lived very well, and some other near relations that I knew of, who I hoped would do something for me. These I frequently sent to, to know if they could give me any account of my vagrant

creature, but they all declared to me in answer, that they knew nothing of him.

I had some plate and some jewels, as might be supposed, my former circumstances considered; and my husband, who had not staid to be distressed, had not been put to the necessity of rising me, as husbands generally do in such cases. But as I had seen an end of all the ready money, during the long time I had lived in a state of expectation, so I began to make away with one thing after another, till those few things of value which I had begun to lessen apace and I saw nothing but misery and the utmost distress before me.

As I have said I sent to his relations, but they returned short and surly answers; nor did any one of them offer to come to see me or the children, perceiving we were likely to be soon troublesome to them. But it was no time now to dally; I went myself among them, and opened my whole circumstances to them. But it was all one, I received not one farthing of assistance from any body, was hardly asked to sit down at the two sisters houses, nor offered to eat or drink at two more near relations. The fifth, an antient gentlewoman, aunt-in-law to my husband, a widow, and the least able of any of the rest, did, indeed, ask me to sit down, gave me a dinner, and refreshed me with kinder treatment than any of the rest.

Here I relieved myself by tears; for relating how I was received by the other of my husband's relation, I cried vehemently for a great while together, till I made the good old gentlewoman cry several times.

There was a poor woman that had been a kind of a dependant upon our family, and to whom I had often been very kind; my maid put it into my head, one morning, to send to this woman, to see whether she might not be able to help me in this dreadful case.

I must remember it here, to the praise of this poor girl my maid, that tho' I was not able to give her any wages, and had told her so, nor was able to pay her the wages I was in arrears to her, yet she would not leave me.

Amy (for that was her name) put it into my head to send for this poor woman to come to me, and I resolved to do so: but the very morning I intended it, the old aunt, with the poor woman in her company, came to see me; the good old gentlewoman was heartily concerned for me, and had been talking again among these people to see what she could do for me, but to very little purpose,

You may judge a little of my distress by the posture they found me in. I had sent Amy out with a silver spoon, to sell it, and bring home something from the butcher's; and I was in a parlour, sitting on the ground, with a great heap of linen, old rags, and other things about me, looking them over, to see if there was any thing among them to pawn or sell for a little money, and had been crying ready to burst myself, thinking what I should do next.

At this juncture they knocked at the door, and thinking it had been Amy, I did not rise up, but one of the children let them in, and they came directly into the room where I was sitting. I was surprised at their coming, especially seeing the person, I had just before resolved to send for. But when they saw my eyes swelled with crying, and what a condition the house was in, and the heaps of things that were about me, and especially when I told them what I was doing, and on what occasion, they sat down like Job's three comforters, and said not one word to me for a great while, but cried as fast and heartily as I did.

After these two good creatures had sat in silence some time, my maid Amy came in, and brought a small breast of mutton; and two large bunches of tur-

nips, which she intended to stew for our dinner. My heart was so overwhelmed at seeing these two friends, and at their seeing me in such a condition, that I fell into another violent fit of crying, and could not speak to them for a good while longer.

During my being in such an agony, they went to my maid, at another part of the same room, and talked to her. Amy told them all my circumstances, and set them forth so to the life, that I could not, on any terms, have done it like her myself. Upon hearing her account, they came to this resolution: that the children should be carried to the door of one of my husband's relations, and be set down there by Amy, and that I should remove for some days, and shut up the doors; that the people should be told, that if they did not think fit to take some care of the children, they might send for the churchwardens, if they thought that better; for they were born in that parish, and there they must be provided for; as for the other child, which was born in the parish of — that was already taken care of by the parish officers there.

This was what these good women proposed, and bad me leave the rest to them. I was, at first, sadly afflicted at the thoughts of parting with my children, especially at the thought of their being taken into the parish keeping. But at last I agreed to go out of the house, and leave the whole management of the matter to my maid and them; and the same afternoon they carried them all away to their aunt's.

Amy, a resolute girl, knocked at the door with the children all with her, and bade the eldest, as soon as the door was open, run in, and the rest after her. She set them all down at the door before she knocked, and when the maid servant came to the door, sweetheart, said she, pray go in, and tell your mistress, here are her little cousins come from Epping to see her. at which the girl offered to go back. Here, child, says

Amy, take one of them in your hand, and I'll bring the rest; so she gives her the least, and the wench goes in mighty innocently, with the young one in her hand; upon which Amy turns the rest in after her, shuts the door softly, and walks off as fast as she could.

While the maid and mistress were quarrelling, for her mistress raved and scolded like a mad-woman, had ordered her to go and stop Amy, and turn the children into the street; but she had been at the door, and Amy was gone, and the wench was out of her wits, and the mistress too. I say, just at this juncture came the poor old woman, and knocks at the door. When she came into the house, the mistress was raging and fuming like one distracted, calling the maid all the foolish jades and sluts she could think of, and threatening to turn the children all out into the street. The good woman seeing her in such a passion, turned about, as if she would be gone again, and said, madam, I will come another time, I see you are engaged. No, no, mistress, says madam, I am not much engaged, sit down. This senseless creature has brought in my foolish brother's whole house of children upon me; but it shall be no disturbance to me. I have ordered them to be set in the street, and so let the churchwardens take care of them, or else make this dull jade carry them back to Epping, and let her that brought them into the world look after them, if she will.

This last indeed, had been the best of the two, says the poor woman, if it had been to be done, and that brings me to tell you my errand, and the occasion of my coming, and to have prevented this being put upon you, if I could; but I see I am come too late.

How do you mean too late, says madam? what you have been concerned in this affair then? what have you helped to bring this family slur upon us?

I hope you do not think such a thing of me, madam, says the woman; but I went this morning to Epping to see my old mistress and benefactor, for she had been very kind to me, and when I came to the door I found all fast locked, and the house looking as if nobody lived in it.

I knocked at the door, but nobody came; at last some of the neighbours servants called to me, and said, there's nobody lives there, mistress! what do you knock for? I seemed surprised at that: what, nobody live there! said I: what d'ye mean! does not mrs. — live there? the answer was, no, she is gone. Then I parlyed with one of them, and asked her, what was the matter. Matter, said she, why 'tis matter enough, the poor gentlewoman has lived there all alone, and without any thing to subsist her, a long time, and this morning the landlord turned her out of doors. Out of doors! said I, what with all her children? poor lambs! what is become of them? Why truly, said she, nothing worse can come to 'em, than staying here, for they were almost starved with hunger: but the neighbours, seeing the poor lady in such distress, for she stood wringing her hands, and crying over the children like one distracted, sent for the churchwardens to take care of the children; and they took the youngest, which was born in this parish, and have got a good nurse; But as for the other four they have sent them to some of their father's relations, who are substantial people, and who live in the parish where they were born.

I was not so surprised at this, as not presently to see that this trouble would be brought upon you or mr. —; so I came immediately to bring you word of it, that you might be prepared, but I see they have been too nimble for me. And another of the neighbours told me, that when they took her children from her she swooned away, and when they recovered her

from that, she run distracted, and is put into a mad-house by the parish.

While the poor woman was telling this dismal story, in came the gentlewoman's husband, and though her heart was hardened against pity, yet the good man was quite softened by the relation of the circumstances of the family; and when she had done, he said to his wife, this is a dismal case, my dear, indeed, and something must be done. His wife fell a raving at him; says she, do you want to have four children to keep? have we not got children of our own? No, no, let them go to the parish.

My dear, says her husband, I won't have a blot lie upon the family, Come, say no more, I'll see what can be done.

Upon this, he sends and gathers all the relations together at a tavern, and sent for the children that they might see them; and they all agreed to have them taken care of: and because his wife was so furious that she would not suffer one of them to be kept at home, they agreed to keep them all together, and committed them to the poor woman that had managed the affair, and entered into obligations to one another to supply the needful sums for their maintenance; and not to have one separated from the rest, they sent for the youngest, and had them all brought up together.

C H A P. II.

Her landlord, falling violently in love with her, takes her into keeping. His intrigue with Amy, and journey to France.

I Was now entering upon a new scene of life; I had a great house upon my hands, and some furniture left in it, but I was no more able to maintain myself and my maid Amy in it, than I was my children. I had lived three quarters of a year in it,

and paid my landlord no rent; however, I observed he came oftener to see me than usual, looked kinder, and spoke more friendly to me. The two or three last times he had been there he observed how poorly I lived, how I was reduced, and the like; told me, it grieved him for my sake: and the last time he was kinder still, said he came to dine with me, and that I should give him leave to treat me, which he did; and sent for wine and beer too, for I had none.

But now he put on the face not of a man of compassion only, but of a man of friendship and kindness, and this was so unexpected that it was surprising; and when Amy came with the wine, he made her fill a glass to him, and with the glass in his hand he came to me, and kissed me, at which I was a little surprised, but more so at what followed; for he told me, that as the sad condition which I was reduced to had made him pity me, so my conduct in it, and the courage I bore it with, had given him a more than ordinary respect for me, and made him very thoughtful for my good.

When he found me change colour, and look surprised at his discourse, he turned to my maid, and said to me, I say all this, madam, before your maid, because both she and you shall know that I have, in meer kindness resolved to do something for you, if I can. Amy made him a curtesy. And now Amy, says he, go and get dinner; and you, madam, go and dress yourself, and come down and smile and be merry; and, in the mean time, I will go and walk in the garden.

He walked about the garden, which took him up near an hour, and by that time I had dressed me as well as I could, for tho' I had good linen left still, I had but a poor head-dress and knots: however I was tight and clean, and in better plight than he had seen me a great while, and he looked extremely pleased to see me so.

By this time dinner was ready, and Amy came to lay the cloth, and indeed it was happy there was none to dine but he and I, for I had but six plates and two dishes left in the house. Amy waited at the table, and she smiled and laughed, and was so merry she could hardly contain herself; for the girl loved me to an excess, hardly to be described.

At his going away, he took me in his arms, protested an honest kindness to me, and said a thousand kind things; and after kissing me twenty times, put a guinea into my hand, which, he said, was for present supply.

I heard no more of him for two days, but the third day he came again: then he told me, with the same kindness, that he had ordered me a supply of household goods for furnishing the house; that, in particular, he had sent back all the goods he had seized for rent, which consisted indeed of the best of my former furniture.

When all was done to his mind, as to placing the goods, he seemed very well pleased, and we dined together again of his own providing. After dinner, he took me by the hand, come, now madam, says he, you must shew me your house. No, sir, says I, but I will shew you your house if you please; so we went thro' all the rooms, and in the room which was appointed for himself, Amy was doing something: well Amy, says he. I intend to lay with you to-morrow night. To night if you please, sir, says Amy very innocently, your room is quite ready. Well, says he, I am glad you are so willing. No, says Amy I mean your chamber is ready to night, and away she run out of the room, ashamed enough.

When she was gone, he walked about the room, looked at every thing, and taking me by the hand, kissed me, and said a great many affectionate things to me: and added, that though he was under such engagements that he could not marry me, yet he would

be every thing else that a woman could ask in a husband, and with that he kissed me again, and taking me in his arms, told me, he hoped I would not deny him all the favours he should ask, because he was resolved to ask nothing of me, but what was fit for a woman of virtue and modesty, and such he knew me to be, to grant.

I pressed him to stay that night, and told him, it was the first completely happy night that I ever had in the house in my life, and I should be very sorry to have it without his company, who was the cause and foundation of it all: and in short I courted him so, that, he said, he could not deny me, but would go to London, and transact his business, and come back in three hours at farthest, and sup with me. That he would send me something from London, and we will make a wedding supper, my dear, says he, and with that word took me in his arms, and kissed me so vehemently, that I made no doubt but he intended to do every thing else.

I started a little at the word wedding; what do you mean to call it by such a name? says I, we may have a supper, but the other is impossible as well on your side as mine. He laughed; well says he, you shall call it what you will, but it may be the same thing, for I shall satisfy you it is not so impossible as you make it.

I don't understand you, said I, have not I a husband, and you a wife.

Well, well, says he, we will talk of that after supper. So he rose up, gave me another kiss, and took his horse for London.

I was young, handsome, and with all the mortification I had met with was not a little vain; and, as it was a new thing, so it was a pleasant thing, to be courted, caressed, embraced, and high professions of tenderness made me by a man so agreeable, and so able to do me good.

Add to this, that if I had ventured to disoblige this gentleman, I had no friend in the world to have recourse to : I had no prospect of a bit of bread, and nothing before me but to fall back into the same misery he had relieved me from.

Amy had but too much rhetoric in his cause ; she represented all these things in their proper colours ; she argued them with all her skill ; and at last the merry jade, when she came to dress me, said, look ye, madam, if you won't consent, tell him you'll do as Rachel did to Jacob when she could have no children, put your maid to bed to him : tell him, you cannot comply with him, but there's Amy, he may ask her the question, and she has promised you not to deny him.

He came back before seven o'clock, and we sat down to supper about eight, and were very merry. Amy made us some sport, for she was a girl of spirit and wit, and with her talk she made us laugh very often ; and yet she managed her wit with all the good manners imaginable.

After supper he took me up into his chamber, and pulled out a great many papers, and spread them on a little table ; then taking me by the hand, and kissing me very much, he entered into a discourse of his circumstances, and of mine, how they agreed in several things exactly ; for example, that I was abandoned by a husband in the prime of my youth, and he by a wife in his middle age ; how the end of marriage was destroyed by the treatment we had each of us received ; and yet it would be very hard that we should be tied by the formality of the contract, when the essence of it was destroyed. Then he shewed me a contract in writing, wherein he engaged himself to me ; to cohabit constantly with me ; to provide for me in all respects as a wife ; and repeating in the preamble, a long account of the nature and reason of our living together, and an obligation in the penalty of

7000 l. never to abandon me ? and, at last, shewed me a bond for 500 l. to be paid to me or my assigns within three months after his death.

However I stood out a little longer still : I asked him, how he could expect me to comply with a proposal of such consequence, the very first time it was made to me ; and told him, that I ought, before I consented to it, to shew some reluctance, lest he should afterwards upbraid me with easiness, and consenting too soon. He said, no, but that he should take it as a mark of the greatest kindness I could shew him ; and assured me, by all that was possible for an honest man to say, that he would treat me as his wife as long as he lived.

I stood still some time, and said nothing ; but seeing him eager for my answer, I smiled, and looking up at him, said, and must I then say yes, at first asking ? must I depend upon your promise ? why then, upon the faith of that promise, and the sense I have of the inexpressible kindness you have shewn me, you shall be obliged, and I will be wholly yours to the end of my life.

The rest of the evening was spent very agreeably to me ; he was perfectly good humoured, and at that time very merry ; then he made Amy dance with him, and I told him, I would put Amy to bed to him. Amy said with all her heart, she had never been a bride in her life ; in short, he made the girl so merry, that had not he been to lie with me that night, I believe he would have played the fool with Amy for half an hour, and the girl would have no more refused him than I intended to do.

Having consented to his proposal, we had not much more to do ; he gave me my writings, and the bond for my maintenance during his life, and for 500 l. after his death ; and so far was he from abating his affection to me afterwards, that two years after we were thus married as he called it, he made his will,

and gave me 1000 l. more, and all his household stuff, plate, &c. which was very considerable.

Amy put us to bed, and my new friend, I cannot call him husband, was so pleased with her fidelity and kindness to me that he payed her all the arrears of her wages that I owed her, and gave her five guineas over.

We lived the most agreeable life that ever two lived together, and the tenderest man to me that ever woman gave herself up to. But I must bring in Amy's disaster at once, that I may have done with her.

Amy was dressing me one morning, for now I had two maids, and she was my chamber-maid. Dear madam, says Amy, what a'n't you with child yet? No Amy, says I, nor any sign of it. Law, madam. says Amy, what have you been doing? why you have been married a year and a half: I warrant you master would have got me with child twice in that time. It may be so Amy, said I, let him try, can't you. No, says Amy, you'll forbid it now: before I told you he should with all my heart, but I won't now; now he is all your own. O, says I, Amy I'll freely give you my consent; nay I'll put you to bed to him myself one night or other, if you are willing. No, madam, no, says Amy, not now he is yours.

At night, when we went to bed, Amy came into the chamber to undress me, and her master slept into bed first; then I began, and told him all that Amy had said, about my not being with child, and of her being with child twice in that time. Ay mrs. Amy, says he, I believe so too, come hither, and we'll try: but she did not go. With that, I sat her down, pulled off her shoes and stockings, and all her cloaths, and led her to the bed to him. Here says I, try what you can do with your maid Amy: and then I threw open the bed and thrust her in.

Amy began now to repent, and would fain have got out of bed again, but he said to her, nay, Amy. you see your mistress has put you to bed, you must blame her ; so he held her fast, and the wench being naked in bed with him, it was in vain to look back, so she lay still, and let him do what he would with her.

I was now become the devil's agent, to make others as wicked as myself, and I brought him to lie with her again, several times after, till at last, as the poor girl said, so it happened, and she was really with child.

She was terribly concerned at it, and so was he too. Come, my dear, says I, when Rachel put her hand-maid to bed to Jacob, she took the children as her own ; do not be uneasy, I'll take the child as my own. Had not I a hand in the frolick of putting her to bed to you ? it was my fault as much as it was yours.

When Amy grew big, she went to a place I had provided for her, and the neighbours knew nothing but that Amy and I were parted. She had a fine child, a daughter, and we had it nursed. Amy came again in about half a year to live with her old mistress ; but neither my gentleman, nor Amy either cared for playing the old game over again ; for as he said, the jade might bring him a house full of children to keep.

After I had lived with him something above two years, I found myself with child ; and was brought to bed of a daughter, but the child died at about six weeks old ; so that we had all the work to do over again.

The next year I made him amends, and brought him a son, to his great satisfaction, which did very well.

Soon after this, my husband, as he called himself, came to me one evening, and told me, a very diffi-

cult thing had happened to him, which he knew not what to do in, or how to resolve about, unless I would make him easy. This was, that his occasions required him to go over to France for about two months.

Well, my dear, said I, and how shall I make you easy ?

Why, by consenting to let me go, says he, upon which condition I'll tell you the occasion of my going. Then, to make me easy, he told me he would make his will before he went, which should be to my satisfaction.

I told him, the last part was so kind, that I could not decline the first part, unless he would give me leave to add, that if it were not for putting him to an extraordinary expence, I would go over along with him,

He was so pleased with the offer, that he said he would give me full satisfaction for it, and accept of it too ; so he took me to London with him next day, and there he made his will, and gave it me to keep. By this will, he gave 1000 l. to a person whom we both very well knew, in trust, to pay it, with interest from the time of his decease, to me or my assigns ; then he willed the payment of my bond for 500 l. and gave me all my household goods, plate, &c.

Having settled every thing as well as we could, we left Amy in charge of the house : and for his other business, which was in jewels, he had two men he entrusted, vvhom he had good security for, and vvho managed for him, and corresponded vvith him.

Goes to Paris with her landlord, where they pass for man and wife. He is murdered going to Versailles.

THINGS being thus concerted, we went away to France, arrived safe at Calais, and by easy journeys, came in eight days more to Paris, where we lodged in the house of an English merchant of his acquaintance, and were very courteously entertained.

My gentleman's business was with some persons of the first rank, to whom he had sold some jewels of great value; and, as he told me privately, he had gained 3000 pistoles by his bargain.

My gentleman had the name in Paris of a very rich man, and indeed he was so, though not so immensely rich as people imagined; but that which was fatal to him, was his generally carrying a shagreen case in his pocket, especially when he went to court, in which he had jewels of a great value.

It happened one day, that being to go to Versailles to wait upon the prince of —, he came up into my chamber in the morning, and laid out his jewel case, because he was not going to shew any jewels, but to get a foreign bill accepted; so when he gave me the case, he said, my dear, I think I need not carry this with me, because it may be I may not come back till night, and it is too much to venture. I reply'd, then, my dear, you shan't go. Why? says he. Because as they are too much for you, so you are too much for me to venture: and you shall not go, unless you will promise me not to stay so as to come back in the night.

I won't, indeed, my dear, says he, unless I am obliged to it; I assure you I do not intend it; but if I should, I am not worth robbing now; for I have nothing about me but six pistoles in my purse, and this ring; shewing me a small diamond ring.

B

worth

worth about ten or twelve pistoles, which he put on his finger in the room of the rich one he usually wore.

But all these promises came to nothing, for he was attacked in the open day, and robbed by three men on horseback, masked, as he went; and one of them, who it seems rifled him, whilst the rest stood to stop the coach, run him into the body with a sword, so that he died immediately.

This was a dreadful blow to me: though I cannot say I was so surprised as otherwise I should have been: for all the while he was gone, my mind was so oppressed, and I was so sure that I should never see him again, that it was unaccountable.

I had him buried as decently as the place would permit protestant strangers to be buried: and I think I almost cried myself to death about him, for I abandon'd myself to all the excesses of grief. Indeed, I lov'd him to a degree almost inexpressible; and considering what kindness he had shewn me at first, and how tenderly he had used me to the last, what could I do less?

I had the satisfaction not to be left in distress, or in danger of poverty; on the contrary, besides what he had put into my hands fairly, in his life time, which amounted to a very considerable value, I found about seven hundred pistoles in his scrutore of which he had given me the key, and foreign bills accepted, to the amount of twelve thousand livres; so that I found myself possessed of near ten thousand pounds sterling, in a few days after the disaster.

The first thing I did on this occasion, was to send a letter to Amy, wherein I gave her an account of my disaster: and as I did not know how his relations and his wife's friends might act, I ordered her to convey away all the plate, linen, and other things of value, and to secure them in a person's hands I directed her to, and then to sell or dispose of the

furniture of the house, if she could; and so, without acquainting any person with the reason of her going, withdraw.

C H A P. IV.

Gives an Account how one of the princes of France fell in love with her; by whom she had a child. Her going with the prince to the palace of Mendon, where she sees her husband.

UPON the head manager's receiving the surprising news of his death, he came over to Paris, and came to the house. I made no scruple of calling myself madam —, the widow of monsieur —, the English jeweller, as I spoke French naturally, I did not let him know but that I was his wife, married in France; and that I had not heard he had any wife in England,

I should have observed, that as soon as the news was public of a man being murdered, and that he was a jeweller, fame did me the favour as to report that he was robbed of his casket of Jewels which he always carried about him.

I confirmed this rumour, and added, that he had a fine diamond ring, which he was known to wear frequently about him, a gold watch, and a great quantity of diamonds, of inestimable value, in his casket, which he was going to shew to the prince of —. The prince owned that he had spoken to him to bring some jewels; but I sorely repented this part afterwards.

By this time my maid Amy arrived, and gave me an account of her management; and let me know how much she made of every thing, very punctually and honestly.

I got good advice at Paris, from an eminent Lawyer, and laying my case before him, he directed me

to make a process in dower upon the estate, for making good my fortune upon matrimony; which accordingly I did: and, upon the whole, the manager went back to England, well satisfied that he had got the unaccepted bills of exchange, which were for 2500 l. with some other things which amounted to seventeen thousand livres. And thus I got rid of him.

I was visited on this sad occasion by a great many ladies of quality; and the prince of —, to whom it was reported he was carrying the jewels, sent his gentleman with a handsome compliment of condolance to me; and his gentleman hinted, as if his highness did intend to have visited me himself, but that some accident had prevented him.

By the concourse of ladies and others that thus came to visit me, I began to be much known; and as I did not fail to set myself off to the best advantage, considering the dress of a widow, which in those days was a frightful thing, (for I was not ignorant that I was very handsome) I was soon made public by the name of *La belle veuve de Poitou*, the pretty widow of Poitou.

About four days after I had received the compliments of condolance from the prince, the same gentleman he had sent before, came to tell me, that his highness was coming to pay me a visit; at which I was surpris'd, and perfectly at a loss how to behave.

It was not many minutes before he was at the door, and came in, introduced by his own gentleman and my woman Amy.

He treated me with great civility, and consoled handsomely on the loss of my husband: he told me he understood he was coming to Versailles, to himself, to shew him jewels; that it was true he had spoke with him about them, but could not imagine how any villains should hear of his coming at that time with them; that he had ordered him to attend

him at Versailles, but told him that he would come to Paris by such a day, so that he was no way accessory to the disaster. I told him gravely, I knew very well that all his highness had said of that part was true; that these villains knew his profession, and, without doubt, were informed that he always carried a casket of jewels about him, and that he wore a diamond ring worth a hundred pistoles, which report had magnified to five hundred. After this his highness rose up to be gone and told me, he had resolved however to make me some reparation, and with these words put a silk purse with an hundred pistoles, into my hand, and told me, he would make me a farther compliment of a small pension, which his gentleman would inform me of.

Some little time after this, his gentleman came to me again, and with great ceremony and respect delivered me a black box tied with a scarlet ribband, and sealed with a noble coat of arms; there was in it a grant from his highness, with a warrant to his banker to pay me two thousand livres a year, during my stay in Paris, as the widow of monsieur — the jeweller.

I received it with great submission, and expressions of being infinitely obliged to his master, and of shewing myself on all occasions his highness's most obedient servant.

One afternoon the gentleman came, and said, his highness designed to visit me in the evening; but desired to be admitted without ceremony.

I prepared not only my apartments, but myself, to receive him; and when he came, nobody appeared in the house but his gentleman and my maid Amy.

When he came into the room, I fell down at his feet, before he could come to salute me; thanked him for his bounty and goodness to a poor desolate woman,

woman, oppressed under the weight of so terrible a disaster, and refused to rise till he would allow me the honour to kiss his hand.

Levez-vous donc, said the prince, taking me in his arms, I design more favours for you than this trifle; you shall for the future find a friend where you did not expect one, and I resolve to let you see how kind I can be to one who is the most agreeable creature upon earth.

He said some very kind things to me after this, and sat down with me for an hour or more; when getting up, and calling his gentleman by his name, he threw open the door; upon which, his gentleman immediately brought up a little table, covered with a fine damask cloth, but upon it was set two decanters, one of champaign and the other of water, six silver plates, and a service of fine sweetmeats, in fine china dishes, on a set of rings standing up about twenty inches high, one above another; below was three roasted partridges and a quail; now, says the prince I intended to sup with you.

When he had sent away his gentleman, I stood up and offered to wait on his highness while he eat, but he positively refused, and told me, to-morrow you shall be the widow of monsieur —. but to night you shall be my mistress; there sit here, and eat with me; or I will get up and serve.

Now madam, said the prince, give me leave to lay aside my character; let us talk together with the freedom of equals; my quality sets me at a distance from you, and makes you ceremonious; your beauty exalts you to more than an equality, I must then treat you as lovers do their mistresses, but I cannot speak the language; it is enough to tell you how agreeable you are to me; how I am surprised at your beauty, and resolve to make you happy, and to be happy with you.

I knew not what to say to him a good while, but blushed, and looking up towards him, said, I was already made happy in the favour of a person of such rank.

After he had eaten, he poured the sweetmeats in my lap, and the wine being out, he called his gentleman to take away the table; who laying another cloth, set the table on one side of the room, with a noble service of plate on it; then having set the two decanters again upon the table, filled as before, he withdrew.

About half an hour after, the prince told me, I had offered to wait a little before; and if I would now take the trouble, he would give me leave to give him some wine.

I went to the table, filled a glass of wine, and brought it to him on a fine salver. He smiled, and bid me look on the salver, which I did, and admired it much. You may see, said he, I resolve to have more of your company, for my servant shall leave you that plate for my use. I told him, I believed his highness would not take it ill that I was not furnished fit to entertain a person of his rank.

It now began to grow late, and he took notice of it, but, says he, I cannot leave you; have you not a spare lodging for one night. I told him I had but a homely lodging to entertain such a guest: and he said something exceeding kind on that head, but not fit to repeat.

About midnight he sent his gentleman on an errand after telling him aloud that he intended to stay all night; in a little time his gentleman brought him a night-gown, slippers, two caps, a neck-cloth and shirt, which he gave me to carry into his chamber, and sent his man home; and then turning to me, said, I should do him the honour to be his chamberlain of the household, and his dresser also.

About one in the morning, while his gentleman was yet with him, I begged leave to withdraw, supposing he would go to bed; but he took the hint, and said, I am not going to bed yet, pray let me see you again.

I took this time to undress me, and came to him in a dishabille, but so fine and so agreeable that he seemed surpris'd. I thought says he, that you could not have dress'd to more advantage than you had done before, but now you charm me a thousand times more if possible. It is only a loose habit, my lord, said I, that I may the better wait on your highness. He pulled me to him, and said, you are perfectly obliging; and sitting on the bed side, now, says he, you shall be a princess, and know what it is to oblige the gratefulest man on earth. With that, he took me in his arms, flung me on the bed, kiss'd me, and then ——— I can go no farther in the particulars of what pass'd at that time, it ended in this, that I lay with him that night.

As I had thus given the prince the last favour, and he had all the freedom he could desire with me, so he gave me leave to use as much freedom with him another way, and that was, to have every thing of him I thought fit to demand; and yet I did not ask of him with an air of avarice, but managed him with such art that he generally anticipated my demands.

He desired me, that I would not take any more servants, or set up any equipage. at least for the present, for then it would be immediately concluded I had been left very rich; and then I should be throng'd with the impertinence of admirers, who would be attracted by the money as well as by the beauty of a young widow, and he should be frequently interrupted in his visits; or that he would conclude I was maintained by somebody, and be indefatigable in finding out the person.

This was too just to oppose, and I made no scruple to tell highness that since he had condescended to make me his own, he ought to have all the satisfaction in the world that I was so.

His highness seldom failed to come two or three nights in a week, and sometimes stayed two or three nights together. Once he told me, he was resolved I should be weary of his company, and that he would learn what it was to be a prisoner. So he gave notice among his servants that he was gone to Maintenon, whither he often went a hunting, and that he should not be back under a fortnight; and that fortnight he staid wholly with me, and never went out of my doors.

Never woman, in such a station, lived a fortnight in so compleat a fullness of human delight; for to have the entire possession of one of the most accomplished princes in the world, and of the politest best bred man? to converse with him all day, and, as he professed, charm him all night: what could be more pleasing, and especially to a woman of a vast deal of pride, as I was.

I lived in this gay sort of retirement almost three years, in which time no amour of such a kind was ever carried to so great a height; the prince knew no bounds to his munificence. As he could give me nothing either for my wearing, or using, or eating, or drinking, more than he had done from the beginning, his presents were afterwards in gold, and very large and frequent.

After I had been near a year and a half in his arms I proved with child. I did not take any notice of it to him till I was satisfied that I was not deceived; when one morning early, as we were in bed together, my lord, said I, I doubt your highness never gives yourself leave to think what the case should be, if I should have the honour to prove with child

by you. Assure yourself my dear, says he, if such a thing should happen, I will not refuse owning him for my son, though it be, as they call it a natural son: and shall never slight or neglect him for the sake of his mother. Then he began to importune me to know if it was so; but I positively denied it so long, till at last I was able to give him the satisfaction of knowing it himself, by the motion of the child within me.

I was now within about two months of my time and that soon wore off. When I found that my time was come, it happened very happily that he was in the house, and I entreated he would stay a few hours longer, which he agreed to. They called his highness to come into the room, if he pleased, and I sent him word I would make as few cries as possible to prevent disturbing him. He came into the room once, & called to me to be of good courage, it would soon be over, and then he withdrew. In about half an hour after, Amy carried him the news that I was delivered, and had brought him a charming boy. He gave Amy ten pistoles for her news, stayed till they had adjusted things about me, and then came into the room again, cheered me and spoke kindly to me, looked on the child, and then withdrew; but came again the next day to visit me.

The boy was, indeed, a charming child, and had a certain vivacity in its countenance that is far from being common in a child so young; & he would often say to me, that he thought there was something extraordinary in the child, and he did not doubt but he would come to be a great man.

The child lived to be a considerable man. He was an officer of the Guard du Corps of France; and afterwards colonel of a regiment of dragoons in Italy; and on extraordinary occasions shewed that

he was not unworthy such a father, but many ways deserving a legitimate birth, and a better mother.

I think I may now say that I lived like a queen; or if you would have me confess that my condition had still the reproach of a whore, I may say I was the queen of whores.

The only favour I ever asked of him, was for his gentleman, who had once so offended him by some omission in his duty, that he found it very hard to make his peace; he came and laid his case before my maid, and begged to speak to me to intercede for him; which I did, and on my account he was received and pardoned: and the grateful dog requited me by getting to bed to his benefactress Amy; at which I was very angry. Amy very generously acknowledged that it was as much her fault as his, for that she loved the fellow so much, that she believed if he had not asked her, she should have asked him.

I enquired of Amy how they came to be so intimate. She told me freely, that like mistress like maid: as they had many leisure hours together below, while they waited respectively, while his lord and I were together above; they could hardly avoid the usual question to one another, namely, why they might not do the same thing below that we did above stairs.

I was indeed afraid that the girl would have been with child too, but that did not happen, and so there was no harm done.

It happened one day that my prince (if I may call him so) had a mind to give me some diversion; and to take the air with me. I knew nothing where he intended to carry me; but when he was in the coach with me, he told me, he had ordered his servants to go to court with me, and he would shew me the beau monde. I told him I cared not where I went while I had the honour to be with him: so he carried

me to the palace of Mendon, where the Dauphin then was.

While I was there, the king happened to come hither from Versailles, and making but a short stay, visited madam the Dauphiness, who was then living. The prince was here incognito, only on account of his being with me; therefore, when he heard the king was in the gardens, he kept close within the lodgings; but the gentlemen, in whose lodgings we were, with his lady and several others, went to see the king, and I had the honour to be asked to go with them.

After we had seen the king, who did not stay long in the gardens, we walked up the broad terras, and crossing the hall, towards the great stair-case, I had a sight that confounded me at once. The horse-guards, or Gens d' Arms, were, upon some occasion there, I know not what; but walking in the guard-chamber, with his jack boots on, and the whole habit of the troop, I say there, to my inexpressible confusion, I saw mr. —, my first husband, the brewer.

I could not be deceived: I passed so near him that I almost brushed him with my cloaths, and looked him full in the face; but having my fan before my face so that he could not know me. However I knew him perfectly well, and heard him speak, which was a second way of knowing him.

I then asked the lady that was with me some questions. Pray, madam, says I, what are these guards here; are they king's guards? No, says she, they are the Gens d'Arms; a small detachment of them I suppose attended the king to day, but they are not his majesty's ordinary guard.

This satisfied me in part; but I found means after this, to enquire whose particular troop it was that the gentlemen that were here belonged to; and

with that, I heard they would all-be at Paris the week after.

Two days after, we returned to Paris, when I took Occasion to say to my lord, I heard the Gens d'Arms were to be in the city soon, and that I should be glad to see them march. He was so obliging in such things, that he ordered his gentleman to get me a place in a house where I might see them

He did not appear with me, so that I took Amy. I had told her what I had seen, and she was as forward to make the discovery as I was to have her. The Gens d'Arms entered the city, as was expected, and made a handsome appearance. In a particular rank, eminent for a monstrous sized man on the right, I saw my gentleman again, and a very handsome jolly fellow he was, as any in the troop.

Amy, who thought she might, on many accounts, venture to be more particular than I could, enquired how a particular man who she saw there, among the Gen's d'Arms, might be enquired after. She soon received information, and being an indefatigable girl found him out, and went boldly to his quarters, asked for him, and he came out to her. As soon as he saw her he started back, and was greatly surpris'd; but recovering himself, asked, how her mistress did. Upon which, Amy told him my whole story to the time that the parish took off one of my children, which she perceived very much affected him; and he shook his head, and said some very bitter things when he heard of the cruelty of his relations to me. Amy further told him, that she could give but little account of me, but that she had been informed I was seen once or twice in the city, very shabby, and and it was thought I worked with my needle for my bread.

Amy then made a lamentable outcry, how she had been deluded away to marry a poor footman; for he is no better or worse, said she, though he calls

himself a lord's gentleman; and here, says Amy, he has dragged me over into a strange country, to make a beggar of me.

Why Amy, says he, you are very well dressed, you do not look as if you were in danger of being a beggar.

Ay hang him, says Amy, they love to have fine cloaths here, if they have never a smock under 'em; but for my part, I had rather have money in cash, than a chest full of fine cloaths; besides, sir, most of the cloaths I have, were given me in the last place I lived in, after I went away from my mistress.

Upon the whole, Amy got out of him what condition he was in, upon her promise, that if ever she came to England, and should live to see her mistress, she should not let her know that he was alive. Alas! Sir, says Amy, I may never live to see England, & if I should ever be so happy as to see her, I would not do her so much mischief as to tell her where you were, unless she was in a condition to help herself & you too.

This further deluded him, and made him entirely open in conversing with her. As to his own circumstances, he told her, she saw him in the highest preferment he had ever arrived to, or was ever like to arrive at; for having no friends or acquaintance in France, and, what was worse, no money, he never expected to rise. Upon which, their discourse ended for that time.

Amy soon came to understand that he had a most scoundrel character, and that there was nothing of weight in any thing he said; but that he was, in short, a mere sharper, who would stick at nothing to get money, and on whom there was no depending. That he reported, he had a wife and five children in England, whom he maintained out of his pay; and by these shifts had run in debt in several places; and upon complaint being made of such things, he had

been often threatened to be turned out of the Gens d'Arms.

Upon this information, Amy began to cool in her farther meddling with him ; and told me, it was not safe for me to attempt doing him any good ; unless I resolved to put him upon suspicions and enquires, which might be my ruin, in the condition I was now in.

I was soon confirmed in this part of his character, for the next time Amy came to talk with him, he discovered himself more openly, by descending to ask poor Amy to lend him one hundred pistoles.

Amy pretended poverty ; that her circumstances were mean, and it was not in her power to raise such a sum : and this she did to try him to the utmost. At last he descended to a single pistole, which she lent him, and he never intending to pay it, played out of her sight as much as he could.

Being satisfied that he was the same worthless thing he had ever been, I threw off all thoughts of him ; whereas, had he been a man of any sense, and of any principles of honour, I had it in my thoughts to retire to England again, send for him over, and to have lived honestly with him.

Amy and I had several consultations to be sure never to chop upon him again by chance, and so be surpris'd into a discovery, which would have been a fatal discovery, indeed. Amy propos'd, that we should always take care to know where the Gens d'Arms were quartered, and thereby effectually avoid them.

By this extraordinary conduct I made myself safe, and so went out in publick, or staid at home, as I found he was or was not in a possibility of being at Paris, Versailles, or any place I had occasion to be at. This, though it was very chargeable, yet as I found it absolutely necessary, I took no thought about the expence of it, for I

knew I could not purchase my safety too dear.

By this management I found an opportunity to see what a most insignificant unthinking life the poor indolent wretch, who by his unactive temper had at first been my ruin, now lived; how he only rose in the morning to go to bed at night; that saving the necessary motions of the troop, which he was obliged to attend, he was a mere motionless animal, of no consequence in the world. That he seemed to be one, who, tho' he was alive, had no manner of business in life, but to stay to be called out of it. He neither kept any company, minded any sport, played at any game, or indeed did any thing of moment; but, in short, sauntered about, like one that it was not two livres value whether he was dead or alive; who when he was gone, would leave no remembrance behind him that he was ever here. Who, if ever he did any thing in the world to be talked of, it was, only to get five beggars, and starve his wife. The journal of his life, which I had constantly sent me every week, was the least significant of any thing of the kind that was ever seen.

Yet this nothing-doing wretch was I obliged to watch and guard against as the only thing that was capable of doing me hurt in the world. I was to shun him as we should do a spectre, or the devil if he was actually in our way.

The wicked life he led, has often made me say, I was a warning for all the ladies in Europe, against marrying a fool. A man of sense falls in the world, and gets up again, and a woman has some chance for herself; but with a fool, once fall, and for ever undone; once poor, and sure to starve.

But it is time to have done with him; once I had nothing to hope for but to see him again; now my only felicity was, if possible never to

see him, and, above all, to keep him from seeing me.

C H A P. VI.

Roxana travels with the prince of — thro' Italy; lies in at Venice. Returns to Paris, and lives in great Splendor. Her Reflections on her past Conduct.

I Was now returned to Paris (my little Son of Honour, as I called him, was left behind at my last country seat at the prince's request); thither he came to me as soon as I arrived, and told me, he was come to make his acknowledgments to me, for that I had given him a son. He gave me his company all the evening, and did me the honour, as I then called it, to lodge me in his arms all night, telling me, in jest, that the best thanks for a son born, was giving a pledge for another. And the next morning he laid down on my toilet a purse with three hundred pistoles.

A few days after this, he came to me, and told me he was come to bring me not the most welcome news I ever heard from him in his life.

I looked at him a little surpris'd; but he return'd, do not be uneasy, it is as unpleasant to me as to you, but I come to consult with you about it, to see if it cannot be rendered something easier, than it is, to us both.

I seem'd still more confounded and surpris'd; at last, he said, that he believ'd he should be oblig'd to go to Italy.

I sat mute, as one thunderstruck, for a good while; and it presently occurred to me that I was going to lose him: which, indeed, I could ill bear the thought of, and, as he told me, I turn'd pale. Be not surpris'd, said he, I will go no where without

you ; adding several other things so kind that nothing could exceed it.

He made me set down by him, and after saying a thousand kind things to me, he turns upon me with a smile; why will you venture yourself to Italy with me ? says he.

I stopped a while, and then answered, that I wondered he would ask me such a question : for I would go wherever he should desire me, and give me the felicity of his company.

After several debates between ourselves, he came to this resolution, viz. that he would travel incog. and so avoid all public notice, either of himself or who went with him ; and that then he could not only carry me with him, but have a perfect leisure of enjoying my agreeable company, as he was pleased to call it, all the way.

But now I had a terrible difficulty upon me, and which way to get over it I knew not ; and that was, in what manner to secure what I had to leave behind me. I was rich, indeed very rich, and what to do with it, or who to trust it with, I knew not. I had nobody in the world but Amy, and to travel without her was very uncomfortable. This gave me great uneasiness, and I knew not what to do ; for I could not mention it to the prince, lest he should see that I was richer than he thought I was.

But the prince made all this easy to me ; for in concerting measures for our journey he started the thing himself, and asked me merrily one evening, who I would trust with all my wealth in my absence.

My wealth, my lord said I, except what I owe to your goodness, is but small ; but yet, that little I have, I confess, causes some thoughtfulness, because I have no acquaintance in Paris that I dare trust with it, nor any body but my woman to leave

in the house, and how to do without her on the road I do not well know.

As to the road, be not concerned, says the prince I'll provide you servants to your mind; and as for your woman, if you can trust her, leave her here, and I'll put you in a way how to secure your money as well as if you were at home. I bowed, and told him, I could not be put into better hands than his own, and that therefore I would govern all my measures by his directions; so we talked no more of it that night.

The next day he sent me in a great iron chest, so large, that it was as much as six lusty fellows could get up the steps, into the house; and in this I put all my wealth; & for my safety, he ordered a good honest ancient man and his wife to be in the house with Amy, to keep her company, and a maid servant and boy; so that there was a good family, and Amy was mistress of the house.

Things being thus secured, we set out incog. as he called it, but we had two coaches and six horses; two chaises; and about eight men servants on horseback, all very well armed,

Never was woman better used in the world, that went upon no other account than I did. I had three women-servants to wait on me: they had one coach to themselves, and the prince and I had the other; only that sometimes, where he knew it necessary, I went into their coach, and one particular gentleman of the retinue rode with him.

He was as good as his word indeed, for I had the pleasure of his company, and, in a word, engrossed his conversation almost all the way. He took delight in shewing me every thing that was to be seen, and particularly in telling me something of the history of every thing he shewed me.

What valuable pains was here thrown away upon one, whom he was sure, at last, to abandon with regret. Had I been a daughter or a wife, for whose improvement or instruction he had a just concern, it had been an admirable step; but all this to a whore, to one whom he carried with him upon no account but to gratify the meanest of all human frailties.

We were near two years upon this Grand Tour, as it is called, during most of the time I resided mostly at Rome or Venice, having been only twice at Florence and once at Naples.

At Naples, my lord bought me a little female Turkish slave, who being taken at sea by a Maltese man of war, was brought in there; and of her I learnt the Turkish language, their way of dressing and dancing, and some Turkish, or rather Moorish songs, of which I made Use, to my Advantage, on an extraordinary occasion, some years after.

I was with child again in this journey, and lay in at Venice; but was not so happy as before. I brought him another son, and a very fine boy it was but it lived not above two months; nor after the first touches of affliction were over, was sorry the child did not live, the necessary difficulties attending it in our travelling being considered.

After these several perambulations my lord told me, his business began to close, and we must soon return to France; which I was very glad of on account of the treasure I had there.

When the prince's negotiations were at an end he returned, and by easy journeys we arrived safe at Paris, having been absent about two years.

I found the little family just as I left them, and Amy cried for joy when she saw me, and I almost did the same.

After this, I saw not the prince for above twenty days, being taken up with his family, and also with business; but he sent his gentleman to tell me

the reason of it; and bid me not be uneasy; and that satisfied me effectually.

In all this affluence of my good fortune, I did not forget that I had been rich and poor once already; and that I ought to know that the circumstances I was now in, were not to be expected to last always; that I had one child, and expected another; and if I bred often, it would impair me in the great article that supported my interest, I mean, what he called beauty; that as that declined, I might expect the fire would abate. and the warmth with which I was now caressed would grow cool, and in time, like the other mistresses of great men, I might be dropt; and that, therefore, it was my business to take care of myself that I might fall as softly as I could.

My greatest difficulty now, was, how to secure my wealth, and to keep what I had got; for I had greatly added to this wealth by the bounty of the prince, and by my retired manner of living.

I shall cut short the history of this prosperous wickedness, with telling you I brought him a third son, within little more than eleven months after our return from Italy. Now I lived a little more openly, and went by a name he had given me abroad, which I must omit, and had coaches and servants suitable to the quality he had given me the appearance of; and which seldom happens in such cases: this held eight years from the beginning, during which time I was very faithful to him.

The old haradan, as I may call her, whom he made the guide of our travelling, and who was a strange old creature, told me a thousand stories of his gallantry as she call'd it, and that he had no less than three mistresses at one time, and, as I found, all of her procuring; he had of a sudden dropp'd them all, and that he was entirely lost both to her and them; that they did believe he had fallen into some new hands, but she could never hear who or where, till he sent

for her to go this journey, and then the old hag complimented me on his choice, that she did not wonder I had so ingrossed him, so much beauty, &c. and there she stopp'd.

The highest tide has its ebb; and in all things of this kind there is a reflux, which sometimes is more violent than the first aggression. My prince had a wife, with whom he had lived several years, who in beauty, wit, and a thousand good qualities, was superior not only to most women, but even to all her sex.

They lived in the utmost harmony, but yet the princels was not insensible that her lord had his foibles; that he did make some excursions; and particularly that he had one favourite mistress, who sometimes engross'd him more than she the princess could wish or be easily satisfied with: however, she was so good, so generous, so truly kind a wife, that she never gave him any uneasiness on this account; except so much as must arise from his sense of her bearing the affront of it with so much patience, and such a profound respect for him as was in itself enough to have reform'd him, and did sometimes shock his generous mind, so as to keep him at home a great while together: and it was not long before I not only perceived it by his absence, but really got a knowledge of the reason of it; and once or twice he acknowledged it to me.

This was a point that lay not in me to manage: I made a kind of motion once or twice to him to leave me, and keep himself to her, as he ought by the laws and rites of matrimony to do, and argued the generosity of the princels too, to persuade him; but I was a hypocrite: for had I prevailed with him really to be honest, I had lost him, which I could not bear the thoughts of; and he might easily see I was not in earnest.

One time in particular, when I took upon me to talk at that rate ; when I argued so much for the honour, the virtue, the birth, of the princess, and above all the generous usage he found from her with respect to his private amours, and how it prevail upon, I found it began to affect him, and he return'd, And do you indeed persuade me to leave you ? would you have me think you sincere ? I look'd in his face, smiling, Not for any other favourite, my lord, said I ; that would break my heart ; but for madam the princess—Tears followed, I could say no more, but sat silent awhile. Well, said he, if ever I do leave you, it shall be on a virtuous account ; it shall be for the princess ; I assure you it shall be for no other woman—That's enough, my lord, said I. There I ought to submit. And while I am assur'd it shall be for no other mistress, I promise your highness I will not repine ; or that, if I do, it shall be a silent grief, and not interrupt your felicity.

But another turn of affairs determin'd this matter, for the princess was taken very ill, and in the opinion of all her physicians very dangerously so. In her sickness she desired to speak with her lord, and to take her leave of him : at this grievous parting she said so many passionate kind things to him ; lamented that she had left him no children (she had three, but they were dead) ; hinted to him, that it was one of the chief things that gave her satisfaction in death, as to this world, that she should leave him room to have heirs to his family by some princess who would supply her place, with all humility, but with christian earnestness, besought him to do justice to such princess, whosoever she should be, from whom, to be sure, he would expect justice ; that is to say, to keep to her alone according to the solemnest part of the marriage covenant ; humbly asked his highness's pardon if she had any way offended him ; and appealing to heaven before whose tribunal she

was to appear, that she never violated her honour or her duty to him ; and praying to Christ and the blessed Virgin for his highness ; and thus, with the most moving and passionate expressions of her affection to him, took her last leave of him, and died the next day.

This discourse from a princess so valuable in herself, and so dear to him, and the loss of her following so immediately, made so deep an impression on him, that he looked back with horror on his former life ; grew melancholy and reserved ; changed his society, and much of the general conduct of his life ; resolved on a life strictly regulated by the rules of virtue and piety ; and in a word was quite another man.

END OF THE FIRST PART.



A D V E N T U R E S
O F
R O X A N A.
P A R T II.

C H A P. VIII.

The Prince of ———'s Lady dying, he has some scruples of conscience; leaves Roxana, and resolve on a Reformation. She determines to sell her jewels; is accused by a Jew of murder and theft, and, in a great fright sets out for Rotterdam.

THE first part of this resolution was a storm to me; for about ten days after the princess's funeral, he sent a message to me by his gentleman intimating, that he desired I would not take it ill that he was obliged to let me know he could see me no more.

I need not direct any body to suppose how I received this news. I was indeed exceedingly surpris'd at it, and had much ado to support myself when the first part was delivered: but when I heard the particulars of the story at large, I was fully satisfied. I knew very well he had done nothing but what any man must do that had a true sense of the justice of the princess's discourse to him, and of the necessity there was of his altering his course of life, if he intended to be either a christian or an honest man; I confess it was a circumstance that might be reasonably expected to have wrought something upon me. But I should add, at the close of this affair, that the
C prince

prince did not turn me off rudely, but with all the decency and goodness peculiar to himself. Nor did he send me away empty, but ordered his gentleman to pay the rent of the house, and all the expence of his two sons, and to tell me how they were taken care of, and where. And having thus finished all his affairs, he retired into Loraine, (or somewhere that way) where he had an estate; and I never heard of him more, I mean not as a mistress.

Now I was at liberty, the first thing I resolved on was to go to England, thinking I could manage my affairs better there than in France; but how to get away with such a treasure as I had, was a difficult point, and what I was greatly at a loss about

There was a Dutch merchant in Paris who bore the character of a man of substance and honesty, but I had no acquaintance with him: & therefore I sent Amy to him. He seemed a little surpris'd when she talked of remitting a sum of about 12,000 pistoles to England, and began to think she came to put some cheat on him; but when he found that Amy was a servant, and that I came myself, the case was altered.

I presently saw such a plainness in his dealing, and such honesty in his countenance, that I made no scruple to tell him I was a widow, who had some jewels to dispose of, and also some money which I intended to send to England and to follow myself. He dealt very candidly with me, and advis'd me, to take bills upon Amsterdam, and to go that way to England, and he could recommend me to a man who perfectly understood jewels, and would deal honestly in disposing of them. I thanked him, but scrupled very much travelling so far in an unknown country with such a treasure about me. Then he told me he would try to dispose of them in Paris, and convert them into money, & get me bills for the whole. In a few days he brought a Jew to me, who pretended to buy the jewels; but as soon as he saw them, I saw my

folly ; & it was ten thousand to one but I had been ruined. I was put into such a fright with it, that I was once upon the point of flying for my life, and leaving the jewels and money too in the hands of the Dutchman. The case was thus :

As soon as the Jew saw the jewels, he falls a jabbering in Dutch or Portuguese to the merchant, & I could perceive they were both in a great surprise. The Jew held up his hands, looked at me with horror, then talked Dutch again, putting himself in a thousand shapes. Then he would turn and give a look at me like the devil. At length, I put in a word: Sir, said I to the Dutch merchant, what is all this discourse to my business ? what is this gentleman in such a passion about ? I wish, if he is to treat with me, he would speak that I may understand him. Madam, says the Dutchman very kindly, all our discourse was about you & your jewels ; you shall hear it presently ; it concerns you very much, I assure you. Concern me, said I, how can it concern me so much as to put this gentleman in all these agonies ?

The Jew, continuing in a kind of rage, spoke in French, Yes, madam, it concerns you very much ; shaking his head and repeating the words: then turning to the Dutchman, Sir, says he, pray tell her the case. No says the merchant, not yet ; let us talk further of it by ourselves: upon which they withdrew.

I began to be a little surprised at what the Jew had said ; and, eager to know what he meant, was very impatient till the Dutchman came back ; so impatient, that I called one of his servants to tell him I desired to speak with him. When he came in, I asked his pardon for being so impatient, but told him, I could not be easy till he told me what the meaning of all this was. Why madam, says he, in short this man is a Jew, and understand jewels perfectly well, and that was the reason I sent for him, to dispose of

them to him for you ; but as soon as he saw them he knew the jewels, and flying out into a passion, told me, that they were the very parcel of jewels the English jeweller had about him, who was robbed & murdered about eight years ago ; & he is in all this agony to make me ask you how you came by them, and says you ought to be charged with the robbery and murder. While he said this, the Jew came into the room which a little surprised me again.

The Dutch merchant spoke pretty good English, and knowing the Jew did not understand it, he told me the latter part in English, at which I smiled, This put the Jew in his mad fit again, saying, This was an affair I should have little reason to laugh at : upon which I laughed again, letting him see that I scorned him ; and turning to the Dutch merchant, Sir says I, that these jewels belonged to Mr. — the English jeweller, is true ; but that I should be questioned how I came by them is a token of ignorance, which however he might have managed with a little more decency till I had told him who I am : and both he and you will be more easy in that part, when I tell you that I am the unhappy widow of that Mr. — who was so barbarously murdered going to Versailles ; and that he was not robbed of these jewels but of others ; Mr. — having left those behind him with me, lest he should be robbed. Had I come otherwise by them, I should not have been weak enough to have exposed them to sale here, but have carried them further off.

This was an agreeable surprise to the Dutch merchant, who being an honest man himself believed every thing I said ; and the Jew was confounded when he heard I was the jeweller's wife, but, having flouted him, he said, That should not serve my turn. So he called the Dutchman out again, telling him he would bring a process against me for the murder ; and away he went.

There was one fortunate chance in this affair, and it was my deliverance. The Jew could not restrain his passion, but must let it fly to the Dutch merchant, who was so good to give me an account of his design, which was wicked enough; for upon examination I could not have proved myself the jeweller's wife. I therefore told the merchant, If I was sure to have justice, I Would not fear all such a rogue could do to me; but I did not know how such matters were carried on in France. I said, the greatest difficulty would be how to prove our marriage, it being done privately, and in a remote part of England. Then madam, said he, you must consider immediately what you have to do.

My misfortune sir, said I, is, that I have no time to consider, nor any person to confide in and advise with upon it. I find that innocence may be oppressed by such an impudent fellow; and therefore what do you advise me to do.

Why, says he, I would advise you to be gone; you intended to go away in four or five days, & you may go as well in two days; and if you can do so, I will manage that he shall not suspect your being gone for several days. I will give you bills for the money immediately, which shall not fail being paid. Take your jewels with you and go this very evening to St. Germain's en Lay; I will send a man with you, who will conduct you to morrow to Roan, where there lies a ship of mine just ready to sail to Rotterdam, I will send orders for her to sail as soon as you are on board, and a letter to my friend at Rotterdam to entertain and take care of you. Then he told me the measures he had planned to delude the Jew, which were very well contrived indeed.

This was too kind an offer, as things stood, for me, not to accept and be thankful for; and as to going I had prepared every thing, so had little to do but

to go back, and take two or three boxes and bundles, and my maid Amy, and be gone,

C H A P. IX

Roxana goes to Rotterdam; is in a violent storm; arrives at Holland, where she meets with the Dutch merchant, and becomes his bedfellow.

HAVING secured my jewels, and received my bills from the merchant, he sent me away the same evening, in a coach he had procured for me, to St. Germain's, and the next morning to Roan; he also sent a servant of his own on horseback with me, who provided every thing, and carried his orders to the captain of the ship, by whose direction I immediately went on board, and three days after we were out at sea. Thus I took my leave of France, & got clear of an ugly business.

And now Amy and I were at leisure to look upon the danger we had escaped; and had I had any religion, any sense of a supreme power governing the events of this world, I had been thankful to that being; but I had none of those thoughts about me; only, indeed, I had a grateful sense of the generous friendship of the Dutch Merchant.

We passed between Dover and Calais, and I saw beloved England once more under my view. But we had not been out of sight of it many hours, before the weather changed, the winds whistled and made a noise, & the seamen said to one another it would blow hard at night. It was then about sunset, and we past by Dunkirk, and were in sight of Ostend; but the wind grew high, the sea swelled, & all things look'd terrible; the winds freshened and blew harder and harder, and about two hours within night it blew a terrible storm.

My mind was very much disturbed, but I had nobody to comfort me but Amy, who was more terri-

sied at the storm than I was ; at last the ship giving a jerk, by the force of some violent wave, it threw poor Amy quite down, and as it threw her forwards, the girl struck her head against the bulk-head of the cabin, and laid her as dead as a stone, to outward appearance, on the floor. I got a bottle out of my pocket, held it to her nose, rubbed her temples, and what else I could do, but still Amy shew'd no signs of life ; however, after a great while, she came to herself, but remembered nothing of what happened to her.

It now began to be day-light, for the storm held all night, and it was some comfort to see the light of another day, but the sea went mountain high ; & the noise of the water was as frightful as the sight of the waves ; nor did the seamen know whereabouts they were. At last, in about two hours, they made land, which was the coast of Suffolk ; and the ship being in the utmost distress, they ran for the shore at all hazards, and with great difficulty got into Harwich ; but the ship was so full of water, and so much damaged, that if they had not laid her ashore that day, she would have sunk before night.

I know not what ailed me, but Amy was much more penitent at sea, and more sensible of her deliverance, than I was. I was in a kind of stupidity ; I had a mind full of horror during the storm, & saw death before me as plainly as Amy, but my thoughts got no vent ; I had a sullen silent grief, which could not break out either in words or tears, & which was therefore much worse to bear.

As soon as we got on shore we went to an inn, & we considered seriously whether we should go up to London, or stay till the ship was refitted, which they said would be a fortnight, and then go to Holland, as business required ; for there I had all my money to receive, and there I had persons of good reputa-

lon and character to apply to, having letters from the honest Dutch merchant at Paris to them, & they might perhaps give me a recommendation again to merchants in London, & so I should get acquainted with some people of figure: whereas now, I knew not one creature in London, that I could make my-known to.

Upon these considerations I resolved to go to Holland, and embarked soon after in the packet boat, leaving Amy behind at Harwich, with directions to go to London, and stay there to receive letters & orders what to do.

I got a servant at Harwich to go over with me, who had been at Rotterdam, knew the place & spoke the language, and away I went. I had a quick passage and pleasant weather, and coming to Rotterdam, soon found out the merchant to whom I was recommended, who received me with extraordinary respect, and accepted the bills, I also entered into a negotiation there, by his means, for my jewels, and he brought me several jewellers to look on them, & particularly one to value them, and to tell me what every particular was worth.

After I had been here three months, my maid Amy wrote me word that she had received a letter from the prince's gentleman, who, among other things sent her this particular news, that my real husband, who rode in the Gens d'Arms was dead; and so the jade congratulated me on my being now a real free woman: and now, madam, says she, at the end of her letter, you have nothing to do but to come hither, set up a coach and a good equipage, and if beauty and riches won't make you a dutchess nothing will.

I had no inclination to be a wife again: I found that a wife is treated with indifference, a mistress with a strong passion; a wife is looked upon but as an upper servant, a mistress is a sovereign; a wife must give up every thing she has, whereas a mistress

makes true the saying, what a man has is hers, and what she has is her own. These were my wicked arguments for whoring, for I never set against them the difference another way. A wife appears boldly and honourably with her husband, lives at home, & possesses his house, servants, and equipages, has a right to them all, and to call them her own; entertains his friends, owns his children, and has the return of duty and affection from them, as they are her own, and claims upon her estate if he leaves her a widow. The whore skulks about in lodgings; is visited in the dark; disowned upon all occasions; & is maintained, indeed, for a time, but is certain to be contemned and abandoned at last; if she has any children, her endeavour is to get rid of them & not to maintain them; and if she lives, she is certain to see them all hate her, and be ashamed of her.

While I continued in Holland I received several letters from my friend the Dutch merchant in Paris, in which he gave me an account how the Jew acted after I was gone; how impatient he was when he expected me to come again; and how he raged when he found I came no more, threatening to begin a process against the merchant for corresponding with me, and being accessory to the murder of the jeweller. But the merchant was too many for him; for he brought an information against him for a cheat; wherein he laid down the whole fact, how he intended falsely to accuse the widow of the jeweller of the murder of her husband; that he did it merely to get the jewels from her; that he offered to bring him the merchant in to be confederate with him, and to share the jewels between them; proving also his design to get the jewels into his hands, and then to drop the prosecution, upon condition of my quitting the jewels to him. Upon this charge he was sent to prison, but got out in a little time, though not without the

of money, and continued teasing the merchant a long while, and at last threatened to assassinate him. So that the Dutchman, not knowing what such a villain might do, thought fit to quit Paris and come away to Holland.

I was surpris'd one morning, being at the merchants house whom he had recommended me to, and busy in his compting house, to hear a noise of horses at the door, which is not very common in a city where every body passes by water; and soon after I saw a gentleman alight, and come in at the gate. I expected nothing of the person, but was surpris'd, & indeed more than ordinarily so, when I saw it was my merchant of Paris, my benefactor, & indeed my deliverer. As soon as he saw me, he run to me, took me in his arms, & kissed me with a freedom he had never us'd before. Dear madam, says he, I am glad to see you safe in this country; if you had staid two days longer in Paris you had been undone. I was so glad to see him that I could not speak a good while, and burst into tears; but recovering myself, I said, The more, sir, is my obligation to you that saved me, and I am glad to see you here, that I may consider how to ballance an account in which I am so much your debtor. You and I will adjust that matter easily, said he, now we are so near together. Pray, where do you lodge? In a very honest good house, where this gentleman, your friend, recommended me. And where you may lodge too, sir, if it suits with your business and other conveniencies. With all my heart, says he.

He took up his lodgings in the same house with me, and the room he lay in opened just opposite to my lodging room, so we could almost call out of bed to one another, and I was not at all shy of him on that score. for I believed him perfectly honest; and if he had not, that article was at present no part of my concern.

It was not till two or three days, and after the first hurry of his business was over, that we began to talk of our affairs, and then they took up all our conversation for almost a fortnight. Among other things, he said, That he was glad I had such obligations on me to come over to Holland; but hinted, that he was so interested in my welfare, and had such further designs upon me, that if I had not so happily been found in Holland, he was resolved to have gone to England to see me; and that it was one of the principal reasons of his leaving Paris.

I began to understand him now, and to see plainly that he intended to make love to me; but I would by no means take the hint; because I knew he had a wife with him in Paris, and I had no inclination to any more intriguing. However he surprized me into a sudden notice of the thing a little while after, by speaking of something that he did in his wife's days, I started at the word; What mean you by that sir? have you not a wife at Paris? No madam, indeed, said he; my wife died the beginning of September last: which was but a little after you went away,

Soon after, I told him, it was but just that what expences he had been at, which were all on my account should be paid him; so I pulled out some bills: when he, seeing evidently what I was going about, interrupted me with some warmth, and told me he would have nothing of me on that score, and desired I would not pull out my bills and papers: that he was not in any want of money: and that this was no part of what he had to offer to me, by granting of which I should ballance all obligations; but that it was, since providence had taken his wife from him, I would make up the loss to him. And with that he held me fast in his arms, and kissing me, would not give me leave to say no, nor hardly to breathe.

At length I told him, I could deny him but one thing in the world, and that I was sorry he should propose the only thing I could not grant.

He was long in bringing it out, but when he had he pursued it with such importunities, as would admit of no denial, at least he intended they should not; but I resisted them obstinately, and yet with expressions of the utmost kindness and respect to him.

We were so intimate together that nothing but man and wife could be more so. One evening we were very merry, and I fancied he pushed the mirth to watch for his advantage; so I resolved, at least, to feign to be as merry as he; and, if he offered any thing he should have his will easily enough. About one o'clock in the morning, for so long we sat up together, I said, come, 'tis one o'clock, I must go to bed. Well, says he, I'll go with you. No, no, said I, go to your own chamber. He said, he would go to bed with me. Nay, said I, if you will I don't know what to say; if I can't help it you must. However I got from him, left him, and went into my chamber, but did not shut the door; and as he could easily see that I was undressing myself, he steps to his own room, which was on the same floor, and in a few minutes undresses himself, and returns to my door in his gown and slippers.

I had not been in bed a minute before he came to the door, and opened it a little way, and says softly, what are you really gone to bed? Yes, said I, get you gone. Indeed, reply'd he I shall not begone; you gave me leave before to come to bed, and you shan't say get you gone now. So in he comes, fastens the door, and comes to the bed side to me. I pretended to scold and struggle, and bid him begone with more warmth than before; but it was all one; so he threw off his gown and slippers; and came into bed. He lay with me that night, and the two next, and very merry we were; but the third night he be-

gan to be a little more grave. Now, my dear, says he, tho' I have pushed this matter further than ever I intended, yet to heal it all up, and let you see how sincerely I meant at first, and how honest I will ever be to you, I am ready to marry you still, and desire you to let it be done to morrow morning. But how surpris'd did he look when he found me receive his proposal with coldness and indifference. He was astonished. What! not take me now, says he, when I have been in bed with you! I answered, it is true, to my shame be it spoken, you have taken me by surprise, and had your will of me; but I hope you will not take it ill that I cannot consent to marry you for all that.

Now because this may seem a little odd, I shall state the matter as I understood it myself. I knew that while I was a mistress, it is customary for the person kept to receive from them that keep; but if I should be a wife, all I had then got was given up to the husband, and I was thenceforth to be under his authority; and as I had money enough, and needed not fear being what they call a cast-off mistress, so I had no occasion to give him 20,000*l.* to marry me, which would have been buying my lodging a great deal too dear.

Thus his project of coming to bed to me was a bite upon himself, while he intended it for a bite on me, and he was no nearer his aim than before; all the arguments he could urge upon the subject of matrimony were at an end, for I positively declined marrying him.

He was extremely disappointed, and knew not how to manage; but as he continued to importune me to marry, and I to refuse it, tho' I let him lay with me whenever he desired it; I say, as these two circumstances made up our conversation, it could not continue long thus, but we must come to an explanation.

C H A P. X.

The Dutch merchant uses many arguments to induce Roxana to marry him; she refuses; whereupon he leaves her, and goes to Paris.

ONE morning, in the midst of our unlawful freedoms, when we were in bed together, he sighed, and told me, he desired my leave to ask me one question, and that I would answer it with the same freedom and honesty I used to treat him with. I told him I would. This question was, why I would not marry him, seeing I allowed him all the freedoms of a husband?

I told him, that as I confessed it was the only thing I could not comply with him in, so it was the only thing in all my actions that I could not give him a reason for; that it was true I had let him come to bed to me, which was supposed the greatest favour a woman could grant; but it was evident, and he might see it, that as I was sensible of the obligation I was under to him, for saving me from the worst circumstance it was possible for me to be brought to, I could deny him nothing, and if I had any great favour to yield him, I should have done it, matrimony only excepted.

He was mute a good while; at last says he, my dear, there must be some reason for your refusal; I have therefore one other request, and that is, if I guess the true reason and remove the objection, will you yield to me? I told him if he removed the objection I must needs comply, for I should certainly do every thing that I had no objection against.

Why then, my dear, it must be that either you are already engaged and married to some other man, or you are not willing to dispose of your money to me, but expect to advance yourself higher with your fortune.

I took him up short at the first of these, telling him, he must have base thoughts of me indeed, to think that I could yield to him in such a manner as I had done, and continue it with so much freedom as he found I did, if I had a husband, or were engaged to any other man; and that he might depend on it that was not my case.

Why then said he, as to the other, I have an offer to make you that shall take off all the objection; I will not touch one pistole of your estate, more than shall be with your own voluntary consent, neither now, nor any time hereafter, but you shall settle it as you please for your life, and upon whom you please after your death.

I was indeed surprised at this part of his offer, & he might easily perceive it; it was not only what I did not expect, but what I knew not how to answer. For, if upon so generous an offer I should agree to marry him, I then did as good as confess that it was upon account of my money that I refused him. I therefore gave it a new turn on this occasion, & told him, I had, perhaps, different notions of matrimony from what the received custom had given us of it; that I thought a woman was a free agent as well as a man, and was born free, and, could she manage herself suitably, might enjoy that liberty to as much purpose as the men do: that the laws of matrimony were indeed quite otherwise, and such, that a woman gave herself entirely away in marriage, and capitulated only to be, at best, an upper servant; and, from the time she took the man, was no better than the servant among the Israelites, who had his ears bored, and, by that act, gave himself up for a servant during life.

He replied, that tho' it was in some respects as I had said, yet I should consider that as an equivalent to this, the man had all the care of things devolved on him; that the weight of business lay on his shoulders,

and as he had the trust, so he had the toil of life on him, and the woman had nothing to do but eat the fat and drink the sweet.

I returned, that while a woman was single, she was a masculine in her politic capacity ; that she had then the full command of what she had, & direction of what she did ; that she was a man in her separate capacity, to all intents and purposes. And added, that whoever the woman was that had an estate, & gave it up to be the slave of a great man, that woman was a fool, and merited to be as miserable as it was possible for any creature to be.

All he could say could not answer the force of this as to argument ; only this, that the other way was the ordinary method of the world, and he had reason to expect I should be content with that which all the world was contented with. That it was his opinion, a sincere affection between a man & his wife answered all the objections I had made ; for where there was mutual love there could be no bondage ; there being but one interest, one aim, and one design to make each other happy.

Aye, said I, that is the thing I complain of ; the pretence of affection takes from a woman every thing that can be called herself ; she is to have no interest, no aim, no view, but her husband's ; she is to be a passive creature, and lead a life of perfect indolence ; and living by faith, not in God, but in her husband, she sinks or swims as he is either a fool or a wise man, unhappy or prosperous.

He replied that however I might support my opinion by subtle reasoning, yet it was a way of arguing that was contrary to general practice ; and he confessed he was greatly disappointed at it. But seeing I was positive in refusing him, notwithstanding what had passed, he had nothing to do but to secure me from reproach by going back to Paris, that so it might die out of memory.

I was not pleased with this part at all, for I had no mind to let him go, neither did I care to give him such hold of me as he would have had; thus I was in a kind of suspense, irresolute and doubtful what course to take. I saw evidently that he was preparing to go to Paris: and I found myself with child by him, which I had not yet told him of. But one morning, when I saw him, as I thought, a little anxious and irresolute about going, I told him, that I was with child.

He came to me, and taking me in his arms, and kissing me a thousand times almost, said, why would I be so unkind not to tell him of it before? I said, it was hard, that to have him stay I should be forced, as criminals do to avoid the gallows, to plead my belly; and that I thought I had given him testimonies enough of an affection equal to that of a wife.

He still continued to persuade me to marry him, but I was deaf to all his importunities, and continued so to the last. We parted; only he desired me to write him word when I was delivered, and how he might give me an answer. This I engaged I would do, and he went away in the morning.

C H A P. XI.

Roxana leaves Holland and comes to London. Settles in Pall-mall; and is resorted to by a number of fortune hunters. In what manner she came by the name of Roxana. Her grandeur, retirement, and riches.

HAVING sold all my jewels at the Hague for 7,600 pistoles, (except the fine diamond ring my gentleman the jeweller used to wear, the diamond necklace the prince had given me, and a pair of extraordinary ear-rings, worth 600 pistoles) and received all the bills the merchant had helped me to at Paris, which, with the money I brought with me, made up 13,900 pistoles more; and got bills of ex-

change payable at London for the whole sum ; I took shipping at the Brill, and arrived safe at Harwich, where Amy, by my direction, met me.

I had now all my effects secured ; but my money being my principal concern at that time, I found it difficult to dispose of it so as to bring me in an annual interest. However, in some time I got a substantial mortgage for 14,000 l. by the assistance of the famous Sir Robert Clayton, for which I had an estate of 1,800 l. a year bound to me, and had 700 l. a year interest : and this, with some other securities, made up my estate above 1,000 l. a year.

I lay in at private lodgings about six miles from London, and brought a fine boy into the world ; & according to my promise sent an account of it to the father at Paris. In the letter I told him how sorry I was for his going away ; & did as good as intimate, that if he would come once more to see me, I should use him better than I had done. He sent me a very obliging answer, but took not the least notice of my invitation, so I found my Interest there lost for ever.

I was now up again, and soon came to my lodgings in Pall-mall, and began to make a figure suitable to my estate. I soon found that the world was not unconcerned about me, for the neighbours began to be inquisitive who I was, and what my circumstances were.

Amy was the only person who could satisfy their curiosity, and she let them know that I was the widow of a French nobleman, and worth 40,000 l. all in my own hands.

This was all wrong in Amy, for it recommended me to those sort of gentlemen called Fortune-hunters. But if I was wrong in refusing the honourable proposals of the Dutch merchant, I was right in rejecting these offers, which came generally from gentlemen of good families and good estates, but who living to the extent of them were always needy and

necessitous, and wanted a sum of money to pay off incumbrances, sisters portions, and the like. In short I was harrassed with lovers in abundance, but it would not do; I aimed at greater things, and was possessed with so vain an opinion of my beauty, that nothing lets than a king himself was in my eye.

The king had several mistresses; and if the sovereign gave himself a loose, it could not be expected the rest of the court should be saints. I soon found myself thronged with admirers, and received several visits from some persons of very great figure, who always introduced themselves by means of an old lady or two, who were now become my intimates, one of whom, I understood afterwards, was set to get into my favour to introduce what followed.

The conversation we had was generally courtly, but civil. At length some gentlemen proposed to play and made a party. They played high, and staid late, but begged my pardon, only asked leave to make an appointment for the next night. I was as gay and as well pleased as any of them. One night, I told my lord —, that since they did me the honour of diverting themselves at my apartment, and desired to be there sometimes, I did not keep a gaming table, but, if they pleased, I would give them a little ball the next day; which they accepted.

Accordingly in the evening the gentlemen began to come, when I let them see I very well understood what such things meant. I had a large dining room in my apartments, and five other rooms on the same floor, all which I made drawing rooms for the occasion: in three of these I had tables placed, covered with wine and sweetmeats; the fourth had a green table for play; and the fifth was my own room, where I sat and received company. I was dressed to the best advantage possible, and had all the jewels on I was mistress of. My lord —, to whom I made the invitation, sent me a band of music from the

Opera-house. The ladies danced, and began to be very merry.

About eleven o'clock I had notice given me, that some gentlemen were coming in masquerade dresses, which startled me, apprehending some disturbance; but my lord — told me to be easy, for there was a party of guards at the door which should be ready to prevent any rudeness. Another gentleman gave me a hint as if the king was among the masks; at which I was greatly surprised. However there was no going back; so I kept my station in my drawing room.

Soon after the masks came in, and began with a comic dance. While they were dancing I withdrew, and left a lady to answer for me that I would return immediately. In less than half an hour I returned, dressed in the habit of a Turkish princess, which I got at Leghorn, when my foreign prince bought me a Turkish slave, who was taken by a Maltese man of war in a Turkish vessel going from Constantinople to Alexandria, in which were some ladies, who being made slaves, their fine cloaths were sold; and with the slave I bought the rich dress too; but little did I then think I should put it to such a use.

When I returned, the room was full of company, and I ordered the doors to be shut till the ladies had taken a full view of my dress. But my lord — who was in the room, slipped out at another door, and brought with him one of the masks, a tall well shaped person, but who had no name, nor would it have been allowed to ask any person's name on such an occasion. The gentleman danced with me, and asked me if I had a mind to dance an antic, or any thing by myself. I told him, any thing else rather, if he pleased; so we danced only two French dances, when he led me to the drawing room door, and retired to the rest of the masks. When he left me, I did not go in, but turned about, and shewed

myself to the company, and calling my woman to me, gave some directions to the music, by which the company presently understood that I would give them a dance by myself. They all immediately rose up, and paid me a kind of compliment, by removing back every way to make room, for the place was exceeding full; and I danced by myself a figure which I learnt in France, and which the prince of ——— desired I would dance for his diversion. At the finishing the dance, the company clapped, & one of the gentlemen cried out, Roxana, Roxana, by G—! Upon which foolish accident I had the name of Roxana presently fixed upon me all over the courtend of the town, as effectually as if I had been christened so.

The ball held till I was sick of the night; the gentlemen masked went off about three in the morning, the others sat to play, and some of the ladies were dancing at six o'clock in the morning.

I was very eager to know who it was that danced with me. Some of the noblemen went so far as to tell me I was very much honoured in my company, One of them spoke so broad as almost to say it was the king; and another replied, if it had been his majesty, he should have thought it no dishonour to lead up a Roxana. But to this hour I never knew positively who it was; & by his behaviour I thought he was too young for the king, his majesty being in amage at that time that might be discovered from a young person by his dancing.

Be that as it would, I had 500 guineas sent me the next morning, and the messenger was ordered to tell me, that the persons who sent it, desired a ball at my lodgings on the next Tuesday, but they would have my leave to give the entertainment themselves. I was mighty well pleased with this, but inquisitive to know who the money came from. The messenger was silent as death; and bowing always to my en-

quiries, begged me to ask no questions he could not give an obliging answer to.

On Tuesday there came such an appearance of ladies and gentlemen that my apartments were by no means able to receive them: and those who in particular appeared as principals, gave orders below to let no more company come up. The street was full of coaches with coronets, and fine glass chairs; in short it was impossible to receive the company. I kept my little room, as before, and the dancers filled the great room; all the drawing rooms were likewise filled, and three rooms below stairs which were not mine.

That the king was at this assembly was out of question with me by circumstances I could not be deceived in; and particularly that there were five persons unmasked, three of whom had blue garters, and they appeared not to me till I came out to dance.

My lord —, who had spoke openly to me the first night, came to me, and unmasking, told me, the company had ordered him to tell me, that they hoped they should see me in the same dress I had appeared in the first day, which had been so acceptable, that it was the occasion of this new meeting; and madam, says he, there are some in this assembly whom it is worth your while to oblige.

Some gentlemen then danced with some ladies all in masks, and when they stopped nobody rose up to dance, but all cried out Roxana, Roxana! In the interval my lord — had brought another masked person into the room, whom I knew not, only could discern it was not the same person I danced with before. This noble person, (for I afterwards understood it was the duke of —) led me out into the middle of the room.

I was dressed in the same vest and girdle as before, but the robe had a mantle over it, which is usual in the Turkish dress, and it was of crimson and green,

the green brocaded with gold ; and the head-dress varied a little from that I had before, as it stood higher, and had some jewels about the rising part, which made it look like a turbant crowned.

After I had danced with that noble person I did not offer to dance by myself ; but they all cried out Roxana again ; and two of the gentlemen came into the drawing room, to intreat me to give them the Turkish dance, which I readily yielded to ; so I came out and danced just as before.

While I was dancing, I perceived five persons standing all together, and one of them with his hat on ; it was an immediate hint to me who it was, and at first almost put me in some disorder ; but I went on, received the applause of the company as before, and retired into my own room. When I was there the five gentlemen came across the room to my side, and coming in, followed by a throng of great persons, the person with his hat on said, madam Roxana, you perform to admiration. I was prepared, and offered to kneel to kiss his hand, but he declined it, and saluted me ; and so passing back thro' the great room, went away.

I would have withdrawn & disrobed, being somewhat too thin in that dress, unlaced, & open breasted, as it were in my shift ; but it could not be, & I was obliged to dance afterwards with six or eight gentlemen, most, if not all of them of the first rank ; and I was afterwards told that one of them was the duke of —.

About two or three o'clock in the morning the company began to decrease, the number of ladies especially, some at a time ; and the gentlemen retired down stairs, where they unmasked, and went to play.

Amy waited at the room where they played, sat up all night to attend them, & in the morning, when they broke up, they swept the box into her lap, and

she counted out to me sixty two guineas and a half, and the other servants got in proportion.

There is a scene, which came in here, which I must cover from human eyes or ears. For three years & about a month I lived retired, having been obliged to make an excursion, in a manner, and with a person, which duty and private vows obliges me not to reveal,

At the end of that time I appeared again; but I must own that I did not come abroad again with the same lustre, or shine with so much advantage as before; for as some people had got, at least, a suspicion of where I had been, and who had been with me all the while, it began to be public that Roxana was neither better nor worse than a —, and not the woman of honour and virtue that was at first supposed.

You are now to suppose me about seven years come to town. I suffered the revenue managed by Sir Robert Clayton to remain untouched, and had laid up incredible wealth the time considered. So, had I had the least thought of reforming, I had all the opportunities of doing it that ever woman enjoyed; for the common excuse of whores, I mean want of money, was out of the question. For including some very handsome presents I had made me in mere compliment, upon those shining masquerade meetings, which I held up for about two years; and what I made in three years of the most glorious retreat that ever woman had, I had fully doubled my first substance, and had near 5,000 l. in money which I kept at home, besides abundance of plate and jewels.

In short, I had now 35,000 l. estate, and, as I found means to live without wasting either interest or principal, I laid up 2,000 l. every year, and thus I went on.

C H A P. XII.

Roxana is addressed by a lord for a mistress, and took into keeping. Amy finds out her mistress's youngest son.

SOON after my appearing again, I was very handsomely attacked by a nobleman of a very great estate. He made a long introduction to me upon the subject of my wealth. Ignorant creature, said I to myself, was there ever a woman who could stoop to the baseness of being a whore, and was above taking the reward of her vice? no, no, depend upon it, if you obtain any thing of me, you must pay for it, and the notion of my being rich serves only to make it cost you dearer, since you cannot offer a trifle to a woman of 2,000l. a year.

After he had harangued on that head a long time, he turned his discourse to the subject of love; a point so ridiculous to me without the money, that I had not patience to hear him make a long story of it.

I received him civilly, and let him see I could hear a wicked proposal without being affronted, and yet was not to be brought into it too easily. He visited me a long while, and made me several valuable presents, which with great difficulty I was prevailed on to accept. Gradually I suffered all his other importunities: and when he made a proposal to me of a settlement, he said, that tho' I was rich, there was not the less due from him to acknowledge the favours he received; and that, if I was to be his, I should not live at my own expence. I told him, I was not extravagant, yet I did not live at less than the expence of 500l. a year. That, however, I was not covetous of settled allowances, for I looked upon that as a kind of golden chain, something like matrimony. That, tho' I could be true to a man of honour, as I knew his lordship to be, yet I had a kind of aversion to

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the bond; and though I was not so rich as the world talked, yet I was not so poor as to bind myself up to hardships for a pension. He told me, he expected to make my life perfectly easy; that he knew of no bondage there could be in a private engagement between us; that he scorned to expect any thing of me but what he knew, as a woman of honour, I could grant. Then as to maintenance, he said, he would soon shew that he valued me infinitely above 500 l. a year. And on this foot we began.

Soon after this private engagement, I began to consider whether it were not more suitable to the life I now led, to be a little less public; and, as I told my lord, it would rid me of the importunities of others, and of continual visits from a set of people he knew, who had now got the notion of me I really deserved. It was on this account I proposed to his lordship my taking new lodgings: besides, I considered, that as I might live very happily, and yet not so publickly, so I need not spend so much money; and if I made 500 l. a year of this generous person it was more than I had occasion for.

My lord came readily into this proposal, & went farther than I expected, for he found out a lodging for me in a very handsome house in Queen Square, Westminster, where he was not yet known; and where he had a convenient way to come in, by a door (of which he had the key) that opened into the park.

I held this wicked scene of life about eight years; and tho' my lord found no fault, yet I found, without much examination, that any one who looked in my face might see I was above twenty years old; & yet I carried my age, which was near fifty, very well too.

I must go back here, after telling the wicked things I did, to mention something that, however, had the face of doing good. I remembered that when I went from England I had left five little children turned

out to the charity of their father's relations, and now I greatly desired to hear how things stood with them. Amy being the only person I could trust with such a commission, I sent her to Spittal fields, & she brought me back word, that the uncle in-law, who had been the kindest to the children was dead; and that the widow was left in mean circumstances. That he kept two of them while he lived, but the neighbours pitied them heartily, for their aunt used them barbarously, & made them little better than servants in the house to wait on her & her children, scarce allowing them cloaths fit to wear. These were my eldest & third, who were daughters; the second was a son; the fourth a daughter, and the youngest a son. That as soon as the girls were able to go out to get work they left her; & one of them went to service to a substantial weaver's wife, where she was chambermaid, and in a little time she took her sister out of her aunt's house and got her a place. This was all melancholy, so I sent Amy to the weaver's house where the eldest had lived, but her mistress being dead she was gone, and nobody there knew where she went, only they heard that she lived with a great lady at the other end of the town, but they knew not who the lady was,

However Amy heard that my youngest daughter was dead, but that my sons were alive; that the eldest had run away from his uncle about twelve years before, and had not been since heard of: and that the youngest was put out apprentice by the kindness of an uncle, but to a mean trade, at which he was to work hard.

Amy was so curious in this part that she went immediately to see him, and found him hard at work. She talked to him, and finding him a sensible youth, she went to his benefactor who had put him out, and opened her tale to him. She told him, she had a prodigious kindness for the child, because she had the

same for his mother to whom she was servant: she added, that her circumstances had happened to mend in the world, and, as she was in a capacity, so she was disposed to shew some kindness to the children if she could find them out.

He received her with all the civility so kind an offer required; gave her an account what he had done for the boy; and that he gave 20 l. with him, and was to find him in cloaths during all his apprenticeship.

Sir, says she, as you did all this in charity it was exceeding kind; but as I am resolved to do something for him, I beg you to take him away from the place where he works so hard. He smiled at that: I can, replied he take him away but then I must lose the 20 l. I gave with him. Well Sir, returned Amy, I will enable you lose that; I think you have done enough for the boy, and ought to be acknowledged as a father to him; but you shall not lose more by your kindness than what the bringing him up obliges you to; and therefore there is the money, and pray let him be fetched away.

Madam, says he, I will thank you for the boy as well as myself: but will you please to tell me what I must do with him. Sir, says Amy, as you have been so kind to keep him so many years, I beg you will take him home again one year more, & I will bring you a hundred pounds to lay out in schooling and cloaths, and to pay you for his board.

He look'd pleased but surpris'd, and enquired of Amy what he should go to school to learn, & what she would please to put him out to. Amy said, she would have him learn French, and then merchants accounts, and to write a good hand, for she would put him to a merchant.

About three days after this Amy went again, and carried him the hundred pounds she promised; but then she made quite another figure than she did be-

fore. She went in my coach, with two footmen to attend her, and dressed very fine, with jewels and a gold watch. The coachman & servants were ordered to shew her the same respect they would to me, and to call her madam Collins, if they were asked any questions about her.

At this meeting the uncle brought his wife out, who spoke very tenderly of the youth. Madam, says she, I am heartily glad of your good intention to this poor orphan, and rejoice sincerely for his sake. But madam, you know, I suppose, that there are two sisters alive; may we not speak a word for them?

Where are they, madam? says Amy.

Poor creatures, says the aunt, they are out at service; nobody knows where but themselves; their case is very hard.

Well madam, replied Amy, if I could find them I would assist them. But my concern is for my boy, and I will put him in a condition to take care of his sisters.

Thus this matter passed on for near a twelvemonth, when one of my maid servants having asked Amy leave to go in the city to see some relations (for Amy was mistress of the servants, and took and put out such as she pleased), came home crying bitterly, and continued so several days; which Amy perceiving, took an opportunity to examine her about it.

The maid told a long story, that she had been to see her youngest brother, who was apprentice to a ———; but there had come a lady in a coach to his uncle, who had brought him up, and had made him take him home again; and the lady would have taken me, &, they say, would have provided for me too as she did for my brother, but nobody could tell where to find me, and so I have lost all hopes of being any thing but a servant all my days; and then the girl fell a crying.

By this time Amy had her head and her heart full too, & did not know how to hold it, for she was satisfied this was no other than my daughter: but, as she had authority to manage every thing in the family, she took occasion, some time after, without letting me know any thing of it, to find some fault with the maid, and turned her away.

Her reasons were good, though at first I was not pleased when I heard it; but I was convinced afterwards she was in the right; for if she had told me of it, I should have been in a great perplexity between the difficulty of concealing myself from my child, & the inconvenience of having my way of living known among my husband's relations, and even to my husband himself; for as to his being dead at Paris, Amy, seeing me resolved against marrying any more, told me, she had formed that story only to make me easy if any thing should offer to my liking when I was in Holland.

However, I was too tender a mother to let this poor girl go drudging about the world for bread. Besides, it came into my head that, perhaps, she might be drawn in to marry or lie with some poor devil of a footman, and so be utterly ruined. As to sending Amy to her, there was no doing it, because she knew her: and, no doubt, she might have seen me enough to know me again if I had discovered myself to her. But Amy found out a woman, and giving her her errand, sent her to the honest man's house in Spittal-fields, where she supposed the girl would go after she was out of her place, and bid her tell her that something should be done for her as well as for her brother. And that she should not be discouraged, she carried her twenty pounds to buy her cloaths, and bid her not go to service any more, but take a lodging in some good family, and she should soon hear further.

C H A P. XIII.

Roxana is deserted by his lordship, changes her course of life, and takes lodgings in the Minorities.

MY amour with my lord — began now to draw near an end, and notwithstanding his money, it lasted so long, that I was much more sick of him than he was of me. He grew old, fretful, and capricious, & he grew wickeder as he advanced in years. That upon one of his capricious humours, which he often troubled me with, I took occasion to be less complaisant to him than I used to be; and, as I knew him to be a little hasty, I first took care to put him into a little passion, and then to resent it. I said, I thought he grew sick of me. He answered, that truly so he was. I replied, that I found he was endeavouring to make me sick too, for he did not use me as he was wont to do, and I begged his lordship to make himself easy.

After this I took lodgings at Kensington, where I had very few of his lordship's visits, which I was very glad of; for I now began to be sick, not only of his lordship but of the vice; and as I had leisure to divert and enjoy myself now in the world, so I found my judgment began to prevail upon me to fix my delight upon nobler objects than I had formerly done, and to ask myself the question what am I, a whore for now? Avarice could have no pretence, for I was out of the reach of all that fate could do to impoverish me, having fifty thousand pounds at least in my pocket.

My boy, the only son I knew I had left that I had a legal right to call so, was rescued from the unhappy circumstances of being apprentice to a mechanic, and brought up on a new foot; but tho' this was infinitely to his advantage, yet put it him back,

near three years as to his coming into the world ; at the end of which time I put him to a very flourishing Italian merchant, and he sent him to Messina in the island of Sicily ; and, a little before the juncture I am now speaking of, Amy had letters from him, intimating that he was out of his time, and that he had an opportunity to enter into an English house there, on very good terms, if his support from hence answered what he was bid to hope for. The merchant whom he had served his clerkship to, gave so satisfactory an account to sir Robert Clayton of my young man that I made no scruple to pay 4,000 l. which was 1,000 l. more than he proposed.

But there was another difficulty which lay heavier upon me a great deal, and that was my daughter, whom I had relieved by means of a person procured by Amy.

It was not long after, but being in every thing well equipped, as she was directed, she came to visit Mrs. Amy & to tell her of her good fortune. Amy pretended to be much surprised and overjoyed at the alteration, & began to treat her very well, entertained her handsomely, and when she would have gone, pretended to ask my leave, and sent my coach home with her ; and learning where she lodged, Amy promised to return the visit, and did so : in a word Amy and Susan began an intimate acquaintance together.

After she and Amy had exchanged several visits, the girl talking to Amy of the gay things that fell out when she was servant in my family, spoke of it with a kind of concern that she could not see her lady ; and at last she adds, it is very strange, madam, that tho' I lived near two years in the house I never saw my mistress in my life ; except it was that public night when she danced in the fine Turkish habit, & then she was so disguised that I knew nothing of her afterwards.

Amy was glad to hear this, and told me of it, & I confess it gave me a secret joy to think I was not known to her; and, when other circumstances made room for it, I might discover myself to her, and let her know she had a mother in a condition fit to be owned.

I had begun to reflect a little upon my manner of living, and to think of putting a new face upon it; and nothing moved me more to it than the consideration of having children who were now grown up, and yet, while I was in that station, I could not converse with them, nor make myself known to them; and this gave me a great uneasiness. At last I talked on this part of it with Amy.

Amy, who was a clever manager in such cases, says, madam, I have found a scheme how you shall, if you have a mind to it, begin and finish a perfect & entire change in your circumstances and figure in one day, and be as much unknown in twenty-four hours as you would be in so many years. Come then, says I, let us hear it, for you please me mightily with the thoughts of it.

Why, says Amy, let me go into the city this afternoon, and I will enquire out some sober family, and will take lodgings for you as a country gentlewoman who desires to be in London about half a year, and to board yourself and kinswoman, that is, half a servant half a companion, meaning myself; and so agree with them by the month. To this lodging you may go to morrow morning in a hackney coach, and leave such cloaths and linen as you think fit, and then you are removed at once. In the mean time, I will let the servants know that you are gone to Holland upon extraordinary business, and will leave off your equipages, and so I will give them warning, or, if they will accept of it, a month's wages; and then I will sell off your furniture as well as I can.

This was Amy's scheme ; and it pleased me so well that I resolved to let her go. She was gone five hours ; but when she came back, I could see that her success had been answerable to her pains. O madam ! says she I have pleased you to the life. With that she told me, she had fixed upon a house in a court in the Minories ; that it was a female family, that the mistress had four children, kept two maids, & lived very handsomely, but wanted company to divert her ; & Amy had agreed for a good handsome price, because she was resolved I should be used well.

I was so pleased that I resolved to go with Amy next day to see the lodgings. The gentlewoman, who was a Quaker, was perfectly well bred, good humoured, and of a most agreeable conversation. I was so pleased that I would go away no more, but took up my lodgings there the very first night.

C H A P. XIV.

Roxana becomes a Quaker ; sets up her coach ; and sends Amy to Paris to seek the Dutch merchant.

I Was now in a perfect retreat, as if I had been among the mountains in North Wales ; and pretended, after I had been there some time, to be extremely in love with the dress of the Quakers. This pleased her so much, that she would needs dress me up one day in a suit of her own cloaths. Amy was struck with the novelty, and when the Quaker was gone out of the room, said, I guess your meaning, it is a perfect disguise to you.

I asked my Quaker if she would sell it. I told her I was fond of it, and would give her enough to buy a better suit. She declined it at first, but I soon perceived it was chiefly in good manners ; so I made her let me know what they cost, and gave her three guineas more than the price.

This good Quaker had the misfortune to have a bad husband, and he was gone abroad ; but she had a house well furnished, and some jointure of her own which supported her and her children, so that she did not want. However, as I knew there was no way to fix this new acquaintance like making myself her friend, I began with making some handsome presents to her and her children ; and this answered my end, for it engaged her so, that I might, upon any occasion have confidence in her.

I went but little abroad, but I had been so used to a coach that I knew not well how to go without one, so I told my Quaker friend one day, that I thought I lived too close & I wanted air. That I had always had a coach of my own till now, & I was resolved to have one again. When we came to talk of equipages, she extolled having all things plain, & I left it to her direction. So a coachmaker was sent for who provided me a plain coach, lined with light grey cloth, & my coachman had a coat of the same.

There were few actions in my life, which, on recollection afforded me any thing but regret ; but no one left so much melancholy on my mind, as parting with the Dutch merchant, I told Amy of it, & she at last started a thing which put it into a way of management. Since you are so uneasy, says she, about this Mr. —, give me leave to go to Paris to see what's become of him.

Not for ten thousand pounds, said I, but if you will promise me not to enter into any discourse respecting me unless he begins it, I could be almost persuaded to let you go and try. Amy promised all that I desired, and I let her go.

Amy had a very good passage, and when she came to Paris she informed me that the Dutch merchant had quitted that city, and was gone to live at Roan ; but that she had accidentally met with the prince of — gentleman ; and had enquired about

the prince, who was gone into Germany and lived there.

I was not at all satisfied with Amy's account, but ordered her to go Roan, which she did : and there she was informed that the merchant had lived there two years, but meeting with a great misfortune he had gone back to Holland, where he staid two years and then returned to Roan, and resided there another year ; that afterwards he went to England, and that he lived in Lawrence Poutney Lane, in London, and was to be seen every day upon the Exchange.

While this was negotiating, a strange adventure happened to me. I had been as far as Epping Forest with the Quaker, when on the road between Bow and Mile end two gentlemen came riding by, and went forwards towards London. They did not ride space, & I could hear them talk Dutch very distinctly, but it is impossible to describe the confusion I was in, when I plainly saw that the farthest of the two was my friend the Dutch merchant.

Had it been possible, I would have concealed my disorder from the Quaker, but she perceived it. Dost thou understand Dutch ? Why ? said I. Why, says she, it is easy enough to suppose that thou art somewhat concerned at what those men say ; I suppose they are talking of thee. Indeed, my good friend, thou art mistaken, their discourse is about ships and trading ; but I think I know the farthest of them, but I have not seen him for above eleven years. Well, thou hast seen him with more than common eyes, or thou wouldest not be so surpris'd at seeing him again. I am indeed, said I a little surpris'd, thinking he had been in another part of the world ; for I can assure you, I never saw him in England in my life. Well then, it is the more likely he is come now on purpose to seek thee. No, no, said I ; but yet I should be glad to know where he lives, and how to enquire about him.

She took the hint immediately, & her servant being behind the coach, she called him, and bade him keep his eye upon that gentleman, & as soon as the coach came to the end of Whitechapel, he should get down and follow him closely. The fellow followed very diligently to the Black Bull inn in Bishopsgate-street, and seeing him go in made no doubt but he had him fast, but was confounded when he found the inn was a thoroughfare into another street, and so came back no wiser than he went.

The Quaker was more vexed at the disappointment than I was, and asked the fellow if he was sure he knew the gentleman again if he saw him? The fellow said he should. So, without telling me any thing of the matter, she caused her man to place himself at the corner of Whitechapel Church wall every Saturday in the afternoon. It was not till the fifth Saturday that her man came with a great deal of joy to tell her he had found out the gentleman, and his name was mr. — —, & that he lodged at mr. — —'s, in Lawrence Pountney Lane. I was surprised when she came in the evening and said, I have found out thy Dutch friend, and can tell thee where to find him too. I coloured: and, to put me out of my pain, she told me all the particulars, & what she had done. Well said I, thou art very kind, but this is not worth thy pains; it is only to satisfy my curiosity, for I will not send to him on any account.

C H A P. XV.

The Dutch merchant finds out Roxana, waits on her, and persuades her to marriage.

DURING this interval of five weeks I suffered a thousand perplexities. I was convinced I was right as to the person. I knew him so well, and saw him so plain that I could not be deceived. At last came Amy's letter with the account she received at

Roan, which confirming the other, left me out of doubt of his being my man.

But now I had made the discovery, I was as far to seek what measures to take as I was before. To send or speak to him first I resolved not to do; and to watch him about his lodgings was as much below my spirit; so that I was in a perfect loss how to act or what to do.

In these thoughts I passed away near three months: when one afternoon, as my friendly Quaker and I were sitting in her chamber, somebody rung hastily at the door, and she run down herself to open it; when a gentleman appeared, and making some apologies, asked to speak with me. She brought him into a very handsome parlour, and said she would go and see whether the person who lodged in her house owned that name.

I was a little surprized even before I knew who it was, but was frightened and ready to die, when my Quaker came up gay, and crowing; There, said she, is the Dutch merchant come to see thee. I could not speak a word, but sat motionless as a statue; at last she pulled me and teased me, come, come, says she, be thyself, and rouse up; I must go down again to him; what shall I say to him? Say you have no such person in the house. That I cannot do says she, because it is not truth; besides I owned thou wast above; come, go down. Not for a thousand guineas, said I, Well, says she, I will go and tell him thou wilt come quickly.

A million of thoughts circulated in my head when she was gone, and what to do I could not tell. But the Quaker coming up and perceiving my confusion fetched me a little pleasant cordial; and I went down stairs with her into a dining room next the parlour in which he was. There I stopped, and desired her to let me consider of it a little. Well do, says she, & left me with more readiness than she did before. But

the Quaker soon after threw open the folding doors, which led into the next parlour, & ushering him in, there, said she, is the person who thou enquirest after. And then she retired,

I was confounded and stood up; and he came to me gravely, and saluted me in form. However when he perceiv'd the Quaker was gone, he made a kind of hesitation; and looking a little round him, indeed, said he, I thought the gentlewoman was not withdrawn; and with that he took me in his arms, and kissed me three or four times.

He began with an extasy on the subject of his finding me out: how it was possible that he should have been four years in England, and had used all the ways imaginable, and could never so much as have the least intimation of me, or any one like me.

He told him, that any one who knew the manner of life I led, might account for his not finding me; and the retreat I had taken up, would have rendered it a thousand to one odds he had never found me at all.

Then he asked, if I had not received some letters from him. I told him no; for as he had not thought fit to give an answer to the last I wrote him, he could not suppose I should expect a return after a silence in a case where I had laid myself so low, and exposed myself in a manner I had not been used to. That indeed I had never sent for any letters after that to the place I had ordered his to be directed; for being so justly punished for my weakness, I had nothing to do but to repent of being a fool after I had strictly adhered to a just principle before.

He replied, I run out into a discourse which he hoped was forgotten; that when he came first to England, he went to the place to which they were directed, and found them all lying there but one, and that the people had not known how to deliver them, and had the mortification to be told, they did not so much as know who I was. Then he enquired after

the poor child; and the tears stood in his eyes, while he added, to that moment he knew not if it was alive or dead. I could not hear this without being sensibly touched, and told him that the child was taken care of, and that he need not be anxious about it, unless he suspected that I had less affection for the child than he; that he knew what I had promised him to do for it; that I had made my will, and had left it 5000 l. and the interest of it till he should come of age if I died before that time; that I would still be as good to it; but if he had a mind to take it from me into his government, I would perform what I said; I would cause the child to be delivered to him and the 5000 l. also for its support.

He thanked me for my affection to the child, but said, he did not desire to take him from me, but so as to introduce him into the world as his own; and he could do it, having lived absent from his other children so long that he might very well send another son of ten years old to be brought up with them, & suppose his mother to be alive or dead as he found occasion.

We had so much discourse upon this and the old affairs, that it took up all our time at his first visit; & obtaining my leave to visit me again he went away.

We had several meetings after this, in which we we had so many preliminaries to go thro' that we never touched on the main subject. Once or twice indeed he said something of it, and put it off with a jest; however, in process of time I began to be kind to him, and we grew very intimate. I had left off talking my platonic, and of my independency, and he having cleared my doubts as to his circumstances and misfortunes, we had entered into close conference on the grand affair, and began to consider where we should live, and what equipage we should have.

My merchant bred to business could hardly tell how to live without; and pleaded to live as near Lon-

don as we could, that he might sometimes come to Change and hear how the world went abroad, and how it fared with his friends and children. I answered, that if he chose to embarrass himself with business, I supposed it would be more to his satisfaction to be in his own country. At which he smiled, but said he could not expect such an offer from me.

I was some few days after looking out of the window, and saw a coach come to the end of the court where we lived, and Amy alight out of it. She told me a long story of the prince being hurt by a wild boar; how his gentleman had given her an account of his illness and recovery: but the sum of the matter as to me was, that his lord was turned penitent, & under some vows for his recovery, and could think no more of the lady. I was hardly able to bear the first surprise of this disappointment. Amy saw it, & says, Madam, never be concerned at it: he is got into the hands of the priests, who may be have sent him barefoot on an errand to some Madona or Notre-dame or other; but I warrant you he will be as wicked as ever when he is got out of their hands.

Then Amy told me, as for the Jew, she had learned from good hands that he was concerned in a design to rob a banker at Paris, and that he was fled, & had not been heard of for above six years.

That for my husband the brewer, he was wounded in the battle of Mons, and died of his wounds.

Then I told Amy all the story of the merchant, & how he had found me out, and told all the story of his misfortunes.

Awhile after this, when were very merry, he called me his princess. What do you mean by that? said I. I mean nothing said he, but that you are a princess to me. Well said I as to that I am content, but I might have been a princess if I would have quitted you. I can not make you a princess said he, but I can make you a lady in England, and a countess in Holland.

I told Amy what he said, and she was as impatient to know how it could be as I was. But the next time he told me, that money every where purchased titles of honour. That as to England, he had nothing to do but to get an act of naturalization, and he could purchase a patent for Baronet. That he had a nephew in Holland who had the title of Count, which he had often offered to make over to him for 1000 pistoles; and considering it was in the family already, he would, if I was willing, purchase it.

I told Amy the story, & when I asked her opinion she made me laugh. Now which shall I be Amy; a baronet's lady in England, or a countess in Holland? Both of them, replied the ready witted jade, and then you will really be a princess; for sure, to be a lady in English, and a countess in Dutch, may make a princess in High-Dutch. Upon the whole, Amy put the thought into my head, & I resolved to be both.

In about six weeks we settled all preliminaries; & he let me know he should have the bill of naturalization passed time enough to be an Englishman before we married.

It was not above three or four days after, that he brought me the patent for a Baronet: and saluting me by the name of the lady —, joining his own surname to it, presented me with his picture set with diamonds, & breast jewel worth a thousand pistoles; and the next morning we were married.

We were very merry all the day, and at night the Quaker and Amy put us to bed, the honest Quaker little imagining we had been a bed together eleven years before. Amy grinned as if she had been pleased, but it came out in so many words when he was not by, that this should have been done ten or a dozen years before; that it would signify little now; in short, that her mistress was pretty near fifty, and too old to have children.

C H A P. XIV.

Roxana and her husband's kindness to the Quaker, They go to the Hague, where Roxana is stiled the Countess of ———; and how she lived there.

I Was now my lady ———, and must own I was exceedingly pleased with it, it was so great to hear myself called her Ladyship and your Ladyship, but the novelty soon wearing off, I wanted the other title as much as I did that of ladyship before.

We lived this week in all the innocent mirth imaginable, & our good-humoured Quaker was so pleasant in her way that it was particularly entertaining. One day my spouse pressed me to dress, tho' we had no company: and I, jesting, told him, I believed I was able to dress myself so in one kind of dress, that he would not know his wife when he saw her. No, he said, that was impossible. I told him, I would put it on, if he would promise never to desire me to appear in it before company. He promised he would not, but wanted to know why. Because, said I, it is not a decent dress, & would not look modest. He was satisfied with this answer; and I withdrew with the Quaker and Amy. When Amy had dressed me in my Turkish habit, (at which the Quaker was delighted) I went down to him, Amy holding the train of my robe. He knew me because I had prepared him, but he by no means knew Amy, for she had put on the garb of the little Turk I had at Naples; but she could neither hold her countenance nor her chattering tongue so as to be concealed long.

He was so charmed with the dress that he would have me sit and dine in it. I afterwards told him, that my husband the jeweller bought it for me at Leghorn, with a young Turkish slave, whom I parted with at Paris; and that it was by the help of that slave that I learned how to dress in it,

When we closed up the wedding week in which the Quaker had been so very handsome to us, I told him how much I thought we were obliged to her for her generous carriage; how she had acted the kindest part through the whole; and how faithful a friend she had been to me on all occasions. And then letting him into a little of her family uneasiness, said, I thought I not only ought to be grateful to her, but really to do something extraordinary for her, towards making her easy in her affairs.

My spouse was exceedingly pleased with my discourse, and made a sort of speech to me about gratitude; told me it was one of the brightest qualifications of a gentlewoman; & that it was so connected with religion and honesty, that he questioned if either of them could be found where there was no gratitude; and he spoke of settling 60*l.* a year upon her for life, but in such a manner as not to be in the power of any person to reach but herself. But thinking that a little too much, I told him, I thought if he gave her a purse of 100 guineas, and then settled 40*l.* a year upon her it would be very handsome.

He agreed to that; and the same day in the evening, he took the Quaker by the hand, and told her, that having been very obligingly treated by her, he thought himself bound to let her see we knew how to be grateful: that he desired her to accept of that as an acknowledgment in part only (putting the gold into her hand); and that his wife would talk to her about what farther he had to say to her. Upon which he went up stairs, leaving her confused, and not knowing what to say.

When he was gone, she began to make very handsome representations of her good will to us both. But I put a stop to her, and bid her say no more, but accept of what my spouse had given her: and then I told her what we had resolved to do for her.

Our kindness to the quaker did not end with the 40l. a year; for we were always, while we staid, giving her something or other; and instead of lodging with her she boarded with us, for I kept the house, and she and all her family eat and drank with us, and yet we paid her the rent too. In short, I remembered my widowhood, and I made this widow's heart glad many a day on that account.

Being now married near a twelvemonth, we began to think of going to Holland, where I had proposed to live, and I began to draw in my effects so as to have them all at command upon whatever occasion we thought fit, and told my husband of it. He desired I would adjourn it till to-morrow, and then we would do as the poor people do when they marry, feel in their pockets & see how much money they can bring together into the world.

This was in the morning, and after dinner my spouse went out, and returned with a porter bringing two large boxes, & his servant brought another. soon after he goes out again with his man, and returning at night, brought another porter with more boxes and bundles, and all was carried up and put in a room next our bed-chamber, & in the morning he began to unpack.

When he opened the boxes, I found they were chiefly full of books and writings; but when he had gone through the papers he opened a little box, and there was in it what I did not expect. I thought he had sunk his estate rather than raised it; but he produced me in goldsmiths bills, and stock in the English East India company, to the amount of 16,000l. sterling; then he gave into my hands nine assignments upon the bank of Lyons, and two upon the rents of the town-house in Paris, amounting in the whole to 5800 crowns a year; & lastly, the sum of 30,000 rixdollars in the bank of Amsterdam; besides some jewels and gold in the box to the value of about 15

or 16,000*l.* among which was a very good necklace of pearl, of about two hundred pounds value; and that he pulled out & tied about my neck, telling me that should not be reckoned in the account. Besides in his books there was about 12,000*l.* more; & all put together, made 27,000*l.* sterling, and 1,320*l.* a year. Also a right of reversion which he had to a paternal estate in his family, and a mortgage of 14,000 rixdollars which he had upon it; so that was about 3000*l.* more.

But now said he, I must pay my debts out of this, and they are very great I assure you; and the first, he said was a black article of 8000 pistoles, which he had a law-suit about at Paris, in which he was cast; that in other accounts he owed about 5,300*l.* sterling. But after all this, he had 17,000*l.* clear stock in money, and 1,320*l.* a year in rent.

After some pause, it came to my turn to speak. Then, first, I produced the mortgage which sir Robert had procured for me, the annual rent 700*l.* per annum; the principal money 14,000*l.* Secondly, another mortgage upon land, procured by the same faithful friend, on which, at three times, I had advanced 12,000*l.* Thirdly, a parcel of little securities procured by several hands, on fee-farm rents, and such petty mortgages, amounting to 10,800*l.* principal money, and paying 636*l.* a year rent; so that there was 2,056*l.* a year coming in.

When I had shewn him all these, I laid them on the table, and bid him take them. He looked at them a while, and then handed them all back again to me, I will not touch them, says he, not one of them, till they are all settled in Trustees hands for your own use.

We had full 4000*l.* a year for our future subsistence, besides a vast sum in jewels and plate. And I had kept back from him about 8000*l.* to provide for my two daughters, of whom I have much to say.

With this estate, and with the best husband in the world, I left England. I had not only abandoned all the gay & wicked course which I had gone through before, but began to look on it with that detestation and horror which is the certain companion, if not the forerunner of repentance.

The first thing that happened after our coming to the Hague, was, that my spouse saluted me one morning with the title of Countess, as he said he intended to do, by having the inheritance to which the honour was annexed, made over to him. I was now in the height of my glory and prosperity, and was called the countess of —, for I had obtained that unlooked for which I secretly aimed at, and was really the main reason of my coming abroad.

The first thing that my spouse took upon him to manage, was to declare ourselves married eleven years before our arriving in Holland; and consequently to acknowledge our little son, who was yet in England, to be legitimate; order him to be brought over, & added to our family; and acknowledge him for our own.

This was done by giving notice to his friends at Nimegueu, where his children, (two sons and a daughter) were brought up, that he was come over from England; and that he was arrived at the Hague with his wife, and should reside there some time, & would have his children brought down to see him; which was accordingly done, and I entertained them with all the kindness and tenderness that they could expect from their mother-in-law; & who pretended to have been so ever since they were two or three years old.

This conduct of my spouse was indeed a testimony of a wonderful degree of honesty and affection to our little son; and was a just reproach to me that I had not the same concern for it. What the reason was I cannot tell, but I never had a hearty affectio-

nate love to the child, and indeed had shewn a general neglect of it, except that I sent Amy now and then to look at it, and pay for its nursing; as for me, I scarce saw it four times in the four first years of its life. Whereas, of a son I had by the jeweller I shew'd a different concern; for I provided very well for him and sent him to school; and when he came to years fit for it, let him go over with a person of honesty & good business to the Indies; and after he had lived there some time, and began to act for himself, sent him over the value of 2000l. at several times, with which he traded and grew rich.

Not all the affluence of a plentiful fortune, honours, titles, attendants and equipages; in a word, not all the things we call pleasure, could give me any satisfaction; at least, not so much but I grew sad, pensive, and melancholy; slept and eat little, and dreamed continually of the most frightful and terrible things imaginable, so that in the morning when I should rise, & be refreshed with the blessings of rest, I was haggard with frights & terrible things formed merely in the imagination; and was either tired and wanted sleep, or over-run with vapours, & not fit for conversing with my family, or any one else.

My husband, the tenderest creature in the world, was in great concern for me, and did every thing that lay in his power to comfort and restore me; strove to reason me out of it and then tried all possible ways to divert me, but all to little purpose.

My only relief was sometimes to unbosom myself to Amy, when we were alone. She did all she could to comfort me, but all was to little effect there. Amy was a wild, gay, loose wretch, and not much the graver for her age: For Amy was by this time between forty and fifty too.

END OF THE SECOND PART.



A D V E N T U R E S
O F
R O X A N A.

P A R T III.

C H A P. XVII.

Roxana relates a long detail of occurrences which preceded her departure from England.

I Must now go back to another scene, and join it to this part of my story, which will compleat all my concern with England. I have hinted what I had done for two sons, one at Messina, the other in the Indies.

But I have not gone through the story of my two daughters. I have already observed how one of the girls, when she was made a lady, came and visited Amy at my lodgings. After which, Amy going to visit the girl's brother at his uncle's house in Spittal-fields, both the girls were there, merely by accident, and the youngest girl unawares discovered the secret, that Amy was the lady who had done so much for her and her brother.

Amy was greatly confounded at it, but, as there was no remedy, she made a jest of it: but taking them together one time, told them the history of their mother, beginning at the miserable carrying of them to their aunt's; owned she was not their mother herself, but described her to them. However, when she said she was not their mother, one of them

E expressed

expressed herself very much surprised (for the girl had taken a strong fancy that Amy was really her mother, and that she had, for some particular reason, concealed it from her) and fell a crying, and Amy had much ado to keep life in her. This was the girl who had been my cook in Pall-mall. When Amy had brought her to herself again, she asked, what ailed her? The girl hung about her, and was in such an agony still that she could not be brought to speak a great while; at last, having recovered her speech, she said, O do not say you are not my mother! I am sure you are my mother; and then the girl cried again. Why child, says Amy, would you have me be your mother? if it be because I am so kind to you, be easy, my dear; I will be as kind to you still as if I was your mother.

Amy was so heart-full with the disturbance, that she did not enter further into the enquiry as to what made her so positive: but comes away and tells me the whole story. I was thunder-struck with it at first, but much more afterwards; for the next time Amy went to see her, she was the same thing, and rather more violent than she was before. Amy endeavoured to pacify her by all the ways imaginable; why, says Amy cannot you compose yourself and be easy, and let me go on to do you good & shew you kindness? Can you think if I was your mother I would not tell you so? What whimsy possesses your mind? The girl told her in a few words, she knew well enough how it was: I know, said she, when you left Epping that you went over to France, and I know who went with you; nor did my lady Roxana come back again with you—And thus she run on with such discourse as put Amy out of all patience, who raved at her, & told her she would not come near her any more, nor have any thing to do with her. The girl, a passionate wench, told her, she knew the worst of it; she could go to service again; and if she would not own

her own child, she must do as she pleased. Then the girl fell into a passion of crying again as if she would kill herself,

This girl's conduct terrified Amy and me to the last degree. But that which put Amy the most to it, was, that the girl told her, that she (meaning me her mother) had gone away with the jeweller, & into France, who after her mother fell into distress made much of her, and married her.

Some time after, when Amy had almost persuaded her out of it, and the girl began to be so confounded in her stories that they made neither head nor tail; the passionate creature flew out into a kind of rage, and said to Amy, That if she was not her mother, madam Roxana then was; & then all this that Amy had done for her was by madam Roxana's order.

However Amy brazened her out of it all; & told her, well, since you think you are so high born as to be my lady Roxana's daughter, you may go to her and claim your kindred.

Amy was so provoked that she told me, she began to think it would be absolutely necessary to murder her. That expression filled me with horror, and all the blood ran chill in my veins. What, is the devil in you, Amy! said I. Nay, says she, let it be the devil, or not the devil, if I thought she knew one tittle of your history, I would dispatch her if she was my own daughter. And I, says I, in a rage, well as I love you, would be the first to put a halter round your neck, & see you hanged with more satisfaction than ever I saw you in my life; and then I called her cursed devil; and bid her get out of the room!

This thing gave me a terrible shock, for it happened soon after I was married, and served to hasten my departure to Holland; for I would not have been seen, so as to be known by the name of Roxana, for 10,000*l*. it would have been enough to have ruined

me to all intents and purposes with my husband, & every one else too.

I set Amy to work to find out which way the girl had her knowledge; and more particularly to learn, what she really did or did not know, for that was the main thing with me. But what confounded Amy most was, the girl's saying, she was sure, if Amy was not her mother, the lady Roxana was, and that she would go find her out. Adding, she made no doubt but she could find me, knowing where to enquire my new husband's name.

Amy came home and told me all the particulars; but sure nothing was so surprised as I was, when she told me the girl knew I was married, that she knew my husband's name, and would endeavour to find me out, I thought I should have sunk down at the very words.

We found there was nothing to be done with the girl, but that she was obstinately bent upon searching after me; and I began to be more serious in my preparations for going abroad; but the following accident put me beside all my measures, and struck me with the greatest confusion.

I was so near going abroad, that my spouse had hired the great cabin of an English merchant ship bound to Rotterdam; and all things being near ready, he brought home the captain one day to dinner with him. After dinner we began to talk about the ship and the conveniencies on board, and the captain pressed me earnestly to come on board and see the vessel. In discourse I happened to say, I hoped he had no other passengers; he said, no, he had not; but added, his wife had courted him a good while to let her go over to Holland with him; and, if I went, he thought to take his wife and her kinswoman, that they might both wait upon me; & if we would do him the honour to dine on board the next day, he would bring his wife, to make us better welcome.

Who could have believed the devil had any snare at all in this; or that I was in any danger on such an occasion: but the event was the oddest that could be thought of. Amy was not at home when the invitation was made, and so was let out of the company; but instead of Amy, we took out honest friend the Quaker. But judge what an unconceivable surprise I must be in when I went on board, and was brought into the cabin, to see the captain's wife, and another young person along with her, who had been my cook-maid in Pall-mall, and was my own daughter. If ever I had need of courage and a full presence of mind, it was now: if the girl knew me I was undone; and to discover any surprise or disorder had been to make her know me. The two ladies rose up, and we saluted, so I was obliged to come so near my girl as to kiss her, which I would not have done had it been possible to have avoided it; but there was no room to escape. As I went first towards the captain's wife, who was at the farther end of the cabin, I took occasion to stand with my back to the light when I turned about to salute my daughter, who stood more on my left hand, so she had not a full sight of me tho' I was so near her. I trembled, and was in the utmost extremity between so many particular circumstances as lay upon me, for I was obliged to conceal my disorder from every body.

After I had been upon the rack near half an hour, during which I appeared stiff & reserved, my spouse and the captain fell into discourse about maritime affairs, and the captain carried him out upon the quarter-deck, and left us all by ourselves in the great cabin. Then we began to be a little freer with one another. I thought I perceived that the girl did not know me, because I did not perceive the least disorder in her countenance, or change in her carriage;

and this greatly encouraged me. But I was again confounded, when turning to the captain's wife, and discoursing of me, she said, sister, I cannot but think my lady to be very like such a person, and then named the person. The captain's wife said, she thought so too. The girl replied, She was sure she had seen me before, but could not recollect where. I answered, that I fancied she had never seen me before in England; and asked, if she had lived in Holland. She said no, she had never been out of England. I returned, that she could not have known me then in England, unless very lately, for I had lived at Rotterdam a great while.

This carried me out of that part of the broil pretty well; and I began to be convinced that the girl did not know me; or, at least, that, tho' she had a little notion of me, she did not think who I was.

Thus this meeting went off, and I was resolved the girl should never see me again to revive her fancy; but I was mistaken there too. After we had been on board, the captain's wife carried us to her house, and treated us again very handtome, and made us promise, that we would come again and see her before we went, to concert our affairs for the voyage; for she assured us, both she and her sister went the voyage for our company. Then, thought I to myself, you will never go the voyage at all; for I saw from that moment it would be no ways convenient for my ladyship to go with them.

As I resolved to put off the voyage, so I resolved to put off the visit; going upon this principle, that the girl had seen the last of me, and should never see me more.

However, to bring myself well off, and to see, if I could, a little further into the matter, I sent the Quaker to make the promised visit to the captain's lady, and to make my excuse that I could not possibly wait on her, for I was very much out of order;

and in her discourse, I bade her insinuate to them, that she was afraid I could not go the voyage so soon as the captain might be obliged to go; and that perhaps we might put it off to the next voyage.

She went and managed that part very dexterously, tho' she knew not a word of the grand reason; but I was dead hearted again, when she said she could not understand the meaning of one thing in her visit; which was, that the girl was most impertinently inquisitive about who I was; how long I had been in England; where I had lived, and the like; and, that above all the rest, if I did not once live at the other end of the town. I thought her enquiries so out of the way, said the Quaker, that I gave her not the least satisfaction; and, as I saw by thy answers on board the ship that thou didst not incline to let her be acquainted with thee, so I was resolved she should not be much the wiser for me.

A few days after my friend had made her visit, the captain's wife and my daughter came to my lodging. Had not the Quaker happened to see them before they rung the bell, and told me who was coming, they had clapped on me by surprise in the parlour, and had seen Amy with me. If that had happened, there would have been no remedy but to have taken the girl by herself and made myself known to her.

They paid their visit in form, & I received them as formally; but took occasion two or three times to hint, that I was afraid I could not go to Holland so soon as the captain must go off; and made my compliment how sorry I was to be disappointed of their company and assistance in the voyage. Then the Quaker put in, that, perhaps, I might be too far gone (meaning with child) to think of venturing at all.

After this and other chat had taken up some time, the young fool began her tattle; and two or three times she brought it in, that I was so like a lady she

had the honour to know at the other end of the town, that she could not put the lady out of her mind when I was by; and once or twice the tears stood in her eyes. I asked her if the lady was dead, because she seemed to express so much concern for her. She said, she did not really know, but she believed she was.

This a little relieved my thoughts, but I was soon down again. When they came I was in a kind of dishabille, having on a loose robe, much after the Italian way. This dress put the girl's tongue a running, and her sister prompted it; for as they both admired my vest, and were taken up much about the beauty of the dress, my girl put in a word to the captain's wife, this is just such a dress, said she, as I told you the lady danced in. What, says the captain's wife, the lady Roxana that you told me of? O! that is a charming story, tell it my lady. I could not avoid saying so too, tho' I wished her in heaven for naming it; for I knew when she came to describe the Turkish dress, it was impossible but the Quaker must perceive that mine was the same.

She began only in general, telling where she lived, what grand company her lady kept, how they used to sit up all night gaming and dancing, what a fine lady her mistress was, and what a vast deal of money the upper servants got; as for her, she said, her business was in the next house, so that she got but little, except one night, when there was 20 guineas given to be divided among the servants, and she got two guineas and a half to her share. Then she told how many servants there were, and said, there was one mrs. Amy over them all, who being her lady's favourite got a great deal; they were told, she got a hundred guineas one night.

I put in a word here, and said it was a vast deal to give away: it was a portion for a servant. O madam, says she, that was nothing to what she got afterwards; we that were servants hated her heartily

for it; that is to say, we wished it had been our lot in her stead.

Thus far our discourse of Amy went; but then the Quaker unhappily, but undesignedly, put in a question. But I think thou saidst something of thy mistress; what didst thou call her, Roxana, was it not?

Ay, ay, Roxana says the captain's wife; pray sister let's hear the story of Roxana, it will divert my lady, I am sure.

I was now under a new perplexity; for the young slut gave so exact an account of every thing in the dress, that my friend the quaker coloured at it, and looked two or threetimes at me to see if I did not do so too; for she immediately perceived it was the same dress that she had seen me have on: however, as she saw I took no notice of it, she kept her thoughts to herself.

I put in two or three times, that she had a good memory, to be so particular in every part of such a thing.

O, madam! says she, we that were servants stood by ourselves in a corner, but so as we could see more than some strangers. Besides, it was all our talk for several days in the family, and what one did not observe another did.

I was not at the end of my mortifications yet, for now the Quaker threw out an expression which put me on tenter's again. Says she to me, this lady's habit, I fancy, is just such an one as thine. And turning to the captain's wife, I fancy my friend has a finer Turkish or Persian dress a great deal. No, says the girl it is impossible to be finer, my lady's was all covered with gold and diamonds; her hair and head dress shone like stars there was so many jewels in it.

I never wished my friend out of my company before, but I would have gave some guineas to have

been rid of her just now ; for being curious in comparing the two dresses, she innocently began a description of mine ; and after several similitudes, all very vexatious to me, out comes the motion to me to let the ladies see my dress ; and they joined their eager desires of it, even to importunity.

I desired to be excused, tho' I had little to say at first why I declined it. At last I said, it was packed up with the other cloaths I had least occasion for, in order to be sent on board, but that if we lived to come to Holland they should see me dressed in it.

At last I got rid of my visitors ; and, as soon as they were gone I ran up to Amy and told her the whole story. Amy was just giving her wrath a vent by calling the poor girl all the damned jades & fools she could think of ; when up comes the Quaker smiling, and says, Well, thou art delivered at last : I am come to joy thee of it ; I perceived thou wast grievously tired of thy visitors. Indeed so I was ; the girl held us all in a idle story ; I thought she would never have done with it.

I think, said the Quaker, she had some drift in her long discourse ; there is something in her head, I am satisfied of that. What, says I, do you think there is in it ? Nay, says the Quaker, if she had any view towards thee, that is no business of mine ; but she said, She several times perceived the girl to be in disorder, and to restrain herself with great difficulty ; that she often saw tears in her eyes ; and that when I said my suit of Turkish cloaths was put up, but they should see it when we arrived in Holland, she heard her say softly, She would go over on purpose then.

After she had ended her observations, I said, the girl talked & looked oddly ; but I could not imagine what she aimed at. Aimed at says, the Quaker, it is very plain to me what she aims at ; she believes thee to be the same lady Roxana that danced in the Turkish vest, but is not certain. Does she believe so ?

says I ; if I had thought so I would soon have put her out of her pain. Believe so ! says the Quaker, yes : and I warrant the girl will make thee another visit about it. Will she ? says I ; then I believe I shall downright affront her. No, thou shalt not affront her, says she, I will take that part off thy hand, for I will affront her for thee, & not let her see thee.

I thought that a very kind offer, but was at a loss how she would be able to do it. The thoughts of seeing her again half distracted me, not knowing the temper she would come in, much less in what manner to receive her.

My husband fell into discourse with me one morning upon the subject of my being so ill every day ; and as he hoped I was with child, he would have me consider whether I had not best alter my thoughts of the voyage to Holland ; for that being sea-sick, &c., which was worse, if a storm should happen might be dangerous.

This was just what I wanted : for though I had a thousand good reasons for putting off the voyage, yet I had a mind the motion should come from him. He said he could easily pacify the captain, by telling him the reason of it : and if he made him some satisfaction for the disappointment, all would be well.

I knew the captain could not stay in town above a week ; for his ship being already full of goods, and fallen down the river, he must soon follow ; so I contrived to carry my spouse somewhere out of town. I told him, that my project, if he liked it, was to go to Tunbridge ; and he being entirely passive in the thing, agreed to it with the greatest willingness, and appointed to be ready early in the morning to go with me to Tunbridge.

It was but a few days after I was gone, that the impatient girl came to my lodgings on pretence to see how I did, and to hear if I intended to go the voyage. My trusty agent was at home, and receiv'd

her very coldly at the door : and told her, that the lady whom she supposed she meant was gone from her house.

But the girl was not to be put off so. She said, if the lady —— was not to be spoke with she desired to speak two or three words to her; saying, it was business of the last importance she desired to see me upon; and cried very much.

Thou seemest to be sorely afflicted, says the Quaker, I wish it was in my power to give thee any relief; but if nothing but seeing the lady will comfort thee, it is not in my power.

I had no opportunity says she, to speak to her alone and I could not do it in company; if I could have spoken but two words to her alone, I would have thrown myself at her feet, and asked her blessing.

Thou terrifieth me, said the Quaker with thy passionate expressions, for verily I cannot comprehend thee.

O, says the girl, she is my mother! she is my mother! and does not own me.

Thy mother! says the Quaker; and began to be greatly moved. I am astonished at thee: what dost thou mean?

I mean nothing but what I say, replied the girl; she is my mother, and will not own me.

Then the Quaker took the freedom to ask a few particulars about this wonderful story; at which the girl beginning with the first distresses of her life, went through all the history of her miserable education, her service under the lady Roxana, and her relief by Mrs. Amy; with the reasons she had to believe, that the lady Roxana was her mother, and that the lady at the Quaker's house was the same Roxana she had been servant to.

My friend the Quaker said, I cannot give any credit to thy notion of her being thy mother, and if I might counsel thee, it should be to give over that

thought as an improbable story, that only serves to disorder thee and disturb thy head.

Well, the girl rejected all this, and told her. She was resolved to take so much knight-errantry upon her as to visit all the airing places in this kingdom, and in Holland too, to find me; for she was satisfied she could so convince me of her being my own child that I would not deny her.

My faithful agent the Quaker failed not to write to me immediately. This letter was inclosed to Amy but it came safe to my hands; and tho' I was alarmed a little at it, yet I was not acquainted with the danger I was in of an immediate visit from this teizing creature till afterwards, and I run a greater risk indeed than ordinary.

At last I thought fit to come away from Tunbridge but where to go I knew not. In short I went to a little village, called Woodford, on Epping Forest, & took lodgings in a private house, where I lived retired about six weeks, till I thought the girl might be tired of her search, and have given me over.

Here I received an account from my trusty Quaker, that the girl had really been at Tunbridge, had found out my lodgings, and had told her tale there in a most dismal tone. That she had followed us to London; but the Quaker had told her that she knew nothing of it and admonished her to be easy, and not to hunt after people of fashion as if they were thieves. That she might be assured if I was unwilling to see her I would not be forced to it; and treating me thus was the way effectually to disoblige me. And with such discourses she had quieted her; and hoped that I should not be much more troubled with her.

It was at this time that Amy talked of murdering the girl in so serious a manner, & with such an apparent resolution of doing it, that it put me in a rage with her and I turned her away. She was gone; &

when I came to reflect, that now I had neither assistant nor confidant to speak to, or receive the least information from, my friend the Quaker excepted, it made me very uneasy.

I got my spouse to take the coach one day & fetch my good quaker to me, on pretence of wanting her company. And the next morning after she came to me, to my unspeakable surprise I saw a hackney coach stop at the door where I lodged, & my daughter in the coach all alone. It was a very good chance in the middle of a bad one, that my husband had taken the coach that morning, and was gone to London.

My happy visitor had more presence of mind than I, and asked me, if I had made no acquaintance among the neighbours. I told her, yes. Well said she, go out the back way, and leave the rest to me. And as I went out one way, my friend the Quaker went the other to receive the unwelcome guest.

The girl made but little ceremony; & having bid the coachman ring at the gate, gets out of the coach and comes to the door. My Quaker went to her immediately, but put on all the gravity upon her countenance that she was mistress of.

When the Quaker came into the room, she kept her grave countenance, but said not a word: nor did my daughter speak a good while. After some time the girl began, and said, I suppose you know me, madam?

Yes, says the Quaker, I know thee, and so the dialogue went on.

Girl. Then you know my business too.

Quaker. No verily, I do not know any business thou canst have here with me.

G. Indeed my business is not chiefly with you.

Q. Why then dost thou come after me thus far?

G. You know whom I seek.

Q. But why shouldst thou follow me for her? Thou knowest that I assured thee more than once, that I knew not where she was.

G. I doubt not but she is in the house.

Q. If these be thy thoughts thou mayst enquire in the house. Thou hast no more business with me. Farewell.

G. I would not be uncivil. I beg you to let me see her.

Q. I am here to visit some friends; and I think thou art not very civil in following me.

G. If you knew my distress you could not be so cruel.

Q. Thou hast told me all thy story, and I think it might be more cruelty to tell thee than not to tell thee; for I understand she is resolved not to see thee, and declares she is not thy mother,

G. O! if I could speak to her, I would prove my relation to her so, that she could not deny me any longer.

Q. Well, but thou canst not come to speak with her.

G. I hope you will tell me if she is here, I had a good account that you were come out to see her, & that she sent for you.

Q. I much wonder who could give thee that account. If I had come out to see her, thou hast happened to miss the house; for I assure thee she is not in this house.

Here the girl importuned her again, with the utmost earnestness, and cried bitterly; insomuch that the Quaker was greatly softened at it, and perplexed with her a long time. At last the girl said, she would go back that afternoon, but would come again in two or three days, and search that & all the towns round in an effectual manner; for, in short, if I was in England or Holland she would find me. And so she went away.

The tender hearted Quaker went home the next morning, and I promised to follow her. But I could not bring things to bear to make my coming to London so clear to my husband as I would have done; for he liked the place, and had a mind to stay, if it was not against my inclination; so I wrote my friend the Quaker word, that I could not come to town yet and that I could not think of being under spies: so I put off going for near a fortnight.

At the end of that time she wrote again, in which she told me, that she had not lately seen the impertinent visitor, who had been so troublesome, but she had seen my trusty agent Amy, who told her, she had cried for six weeks without intermission. The Quaker gave Amy an account how troublesome the girl had been, & to what fireights and perplexities I was driven by her hunting after me from place to place. Upon which Amy said, that notwithstanding I was angry with her, and had used her so hardly for saying something about her, yet there was an absolute necessity of securing her, and removing her out of the way; and that, without asking my leave, she would take care she should not trouble her mistress any more.

I was struck, as with a blast from heaven, at the reading her letter, I fell into a fit of trembling from head to foot, and run raving about the room like a mad woman. I had nobody to speak to give vent to my passion, nor did I speak a word for a good while, till, after it had almost overcome me, I threw myself upon the bed, and cried out, Lord be merciful to me, she has murdered my child. With that a flood of tears burst out, and I cried vehemently above an hour.

Afterwards I went to the Quaker's, and there I had the whole story of it; & she gave me joy of my being rid of such a tormentor.

Rid of her ! said I. Ay, if I was rid of her fairly & honourably ; but I do not know what Amy may have done : sure she has not made away with her.

O fie ! said the Quaker ; how canst thou entertain such a notion. No, no, made her away ! Amy did not talk like that. Thou mayest be easy ; I dare say Amy has no such thing in her head.

I mourned for the girl above a month, but finding Amy did not come near me, and that I must put my affairs in a posture that I might go to Holland, I opened my mind to my dear trusty friend the Quaker, and placed her, in matters of trust, in the room of Amy, except the grand reserved article of all, that I was really the girl's mother, and the lady Roxana. There was no need of that part being exposed ; and it was always a maxim with me, That secrets should never be opened without evident utility.

There fell out a great difficulty here, which I knew not how to get over ; and this was, how to convey the usual supply of money to the uncle and the other sister, who depended upon it for her support. And indeed, tho' Amy had said rashly, that she would not take any more notice of the sister, but would leave her to perish, yet it was not in my nature, or Amy's either, much less in my design. And therefore I resolved to leave the management of what I had reserved for that work to my faithful Quaker.

Amy had told them, that she was not their mother but their mother's maid, who carried them to their aunt's. That she and their mother went over to the East Indies, and that there good things had befallen them. That their mother was very rich and happy. That she (Amy) had married in the Indies ; but being now a widow, and resolving to come over once more to England, their mother had obliged her to enquire them out, & do for them as she had done. That now she was going back to the Indies again ; but had orders to do very handsomely for them. In

a word, told them, she had 2000*l.* for each of them, upon condition they proved sober, and married suitably to themselves.

To this purpose the Quaker had full possession of the money; and went first to the honest man and his wife, and settled all matters with them. When she mentioned Amy, she spoke of her as one who had been employed by the mother of the girls, but was obliged to go back to the Indies, and had settled all sooner, if she had not been hindered by the obstinate humour of the other daughter. That she had left instructions with her for the rest. But the other had affronted her so much, that she was gone away without doing any thing for her; and that now, if any thing was done, it must be by fresh orders from the East Indies.

It is enough to mention here, that as the settling this affair made way for my going abroad, notwithstanding the absence of Amy, so I left some hints for Amy too, which the good Quaker, if she ever saw her again, was to show her. Therein I particularly ordered her to leave the Spittal-fields affair just as I had done in the hands of my friend, and come away to me; upon condition, nevertheless, that she gave the Quaker full satisfaction that she had not murdered the girl.

After these things were fully settled, I resolved to go to Holland, and take possession of the title of countess as soon as possible; in doing which I had a view of deceiving my daughter, were she yet alive and seeking me out. So one evening, as my spouse and I were sitting together, I told him, that as there was no likelihood of my being with child, as I had reason to suspect I was some time before, I was ready to go with him to any part of the world whenever he pleased.

The next day at dinner, my spouse asked me, if I persevered in the resolution of leaving England; to

which I answered in the affirmative : well, says he, as all my affairs will not take up a week to settle, I shall be ready to go from London in ten days.

When the Quaker had heard how and when we were to go, she begged, as there would be a spare seat in the coach, to accompany us far as Dover, which we both readily contented to. No woman could be a better companion, neither was there any acquaintance that we loved better, or that could shew more respect to us.

The morning before we set out, my husband sent for a master coachman, and hired a handsome coach with six able horses to go to Dover. The next morning the whole family got up about five o'clock, & I, with my husband's consent made each of the quaker's daughters a present of a diamond ring of 20*l*. value, and gave a guinea a piece to all the servants.

When the coachman had packed up what boxes were designed for our use ; we, namely, my spouse, the quaker, myself, and the waiting maid, all got into the coach ; the footmen went on horseback ; and in this manner the coach drove away from the house, and I took leave of my lodgings in the Minories, as well as of London.

When we came to Sittingbourne, we stopt at the best inn in the town and dined there. We made up 2*l*. 10*s*. for we caused the landlord, his wife, and two daughters to dine with us. Our landlady and her daughters, with a glass or two given to the cook managed two bottles of white wine. This operated so strong upon one of the young wenches, that, my spouse being gone into the yard, her tongue began to run ; and looking at me, she said to her mother, La ! mother, how much like the lady, her ladyship is, that the young woman described, who lay here the other night, and staid part of the next day, and then set forward to Canterbury. The lady is the same person I am sure!

This greatly alarmed me, and made me very uneasy; for I concluded the young woman could be no other than my daughter, who was resolved to find me out whether I would or no. I desired the girl to describe the young woman she mentioned, which she did, and I was convinced it was my own daughter.

I left this town with a heavy heart, fearing my daughter would infallibly find me out at Canterbury; but, as good luck would have it, she had left that city some time before we came thither. This pleased me, and I resolved to stay in Canterbury a day to view the cathedral, and see the antiquities of that city. But the anxiety of my mind on finding myself pursued by the girl, and the fatigue of my journey, had made me much out of order; my head ached, and I had no stomach.

This made my husband (who knew not the cause of my illness) and the Quaker very uneasy; & they did all in their power to persuade me to eat any thing I could fancy. At length the landlady of the inn, who perceived I was more disturbed in mind than sick, advised me to eat a poached egg and a toast, drink a glass of sack, and go to bed, and she warranted, she said, I should be well by the morning. This was immediately done, & I must acknowledge the sack and toast cheered me wonderfully, and I began to take heart again; and my husband would have the coachman in after supper, on purpose to divert me and the honest Quaker, who poor creature was much more concerned at my misfortune than I was myself.

I went soon to bed, but, for fear I should be worse in the night, two maids of the inn were ordered to sit up in an adjoining chamber, the Quaker and my waiting maid lay in a bed in the same room, and my husband in another apartment.

After a good night's repose, I was well recovered, to the great satisfaction of all who were with me, & the next morning proceeded on for Dover, which place my daughter had left five days before.

My spouse asked me how I should chuse to go on board : I desired him to settle it as he pleased, telling him it was a matter of great indifference to me, as he was to go along with me. At last we settled it to go in one of the packets, and to hire the state cabin to ourselves. And soon after my husband ordered the landlord to send for one of the masters of the packet boats, of whom we hired the great cabin.

After dinner we entered into another discourse, which was, the hiring servants to go with us from Dover to Calais, a thing frequently done by travellers. Our footmen set out this morning on their return to London, and the quaker and coach was to go the next day. My new chambermaid, whose name was Isabel, was to go thro' the journey, on condition of doing no other business than waiting on me. And we partly concluded to let the hiring men servants alone till we came to Calais.

To divert ourselves, we took a walk after we had dined round the town, and coming to the garrison, and being somewhat thirsty, we went into the sutler's for a glass of wine. A pint was called for & brought: but the man of the house came in with it, raving like a madman. Do not be in such a passion landlord, said my spouse, pray what is the matter ? O, nothing, sir, says he, but a young fellow in the sutling room, who I find has been a gentleman's servant, wants a place; and having spent all his money would willingly run up a score with me, knowing I must get him a matter if ever I intend to have my money. Pray, sir, said my husband send the young fellow to me; if I like him and can agree with him it is possible I may take him into my service. The landlord took care we should not speak to him twice.

He went and fetched him in himself, and my spouse examined him before he spoke, as to his size, mein, and garb. The young man was clean dressed, of a midling stature, a dark complexion, & about twenty-seven years old.

I hear, young man, says he to him, that you want a place? it may be, perhaps, in my power to serve you. Let me know at once what education you have had; if you have any family belonging to you; or if you are fit for a gentleman's place; can bring any person of reputation to your character; and are willing to go and live with me in Holland. We will not differ about your wages.

The young fellow made a very respectful bow, and addressing himself to my husband, Sir, says he, in me you behold the eldest child of misfortune. I am but young, as you may see; and have no comers after me. I have lived with several gentlemen, some of whom are on their travels; others settled in divers parts of the world, besides what are dead; which makes me unable to produce a character, without a week's notice to write to London: and I should not doubt, by the return of the post, to let you see some letters as would satisfy you in any doubt about me. My education is very muddling, being taken from school before I had well learnt to read, write, and cast accounts. As to my parents, I cannot well give you an account of them; all I know is, that my father was a brewer, and by his extravagance run out a handsome fortune, and afterwards left my mother almost penniless, with five children, of which I was the second, tho' not above five years old. My mother knew not what to do with us, so she sent our maid with us all to a relation's, and there left us, & I never saw or heard of them any more. Indeed I enquired among the neighbours, and all that I could learn was, that my mother's goods being seized, she was obliged to apply to the parish for relief, and died

with grief soon after. For my part, I was put to my father's sister, who, by her cruel usage, forced me to run away at nine years of age. Pray, sir, added he, let it suffice you, that I am perfectly honest; should be glad to serve you at any rate; and altho' I cannot possibly get a good character from any one in this place, yet I defy the whole world to give me an ill one, either in private or public life.

If I had had the eyes of Argus I should have seen with them all on this occasion. I knew that this was my son, and one that among all my enquiry I could never get any account of. The Quaker seeing my colour come and go, and that I trembled; said, I verily believe thou art not well. I hope this Kentish air, which was always reckoned aguish does not hurt thee. I am taken very ill of a sudden, said I; pray let me go to our inn, that I may go to my chamber.

Presently after my husband came to see how I did, and finding me something better, told me, he had a mind to hire the young man, for he thought he was honest and fit for our service. I believe, added he, he has been ingenuous in his relation to me, and as a man who has seen great variety of life, & may have been the shuttlecock of fortune, the butt of envy, and the mark of malice, I will hire him when he comes here anon, as I have ordered him.

When I knew he was to be hired, I resolved to be out of the way at his coming. So about five o'clock I proposed to the Quaker to go on the pier and see the shipping while the tea was getting ready. We went and took Isabel with us; and as we were going along I saw my son Thomas going to our inn. At our return, my spouse told me he had hired the man. Pray my dear, said I did you ask where he ever lived, or what his name is. Yes, replied my spouse, he says his name is Thomas —: and as to places he mentioned several of good note, and among others

he lived with my lord — in Pall-mall, next door to a great French lady, whose name he tells me was Roxana.

We supped pretty late, and were very merry, for my husband said all the pleasant things he could to divert me, and the Quaker kept up the conversation with great spirit.

The next morning, after breakfast, my son Thomas came to his new place, and appeared very clean

When we were sitting together after dinner, the captain came to tell us the wind was very fair, and he was to sail at highwater, which would be about ten o'clock at night; and my spouse asked him to stay and drink part of a bottle of wine, which he did.

We invited the landlord, his wife, and daughter, to supper with us, and having sat about an hour afterwards, the captain & several sailors came to fetch us to the vessel. The quaker would go to see us on board. Tears flowed from both our eyes, and I turned short into the boat, while my husband took his farewell, and then he followed me, and I never saw the quaker or England any more.

We were no sooner on board than we hoisted sail. The wind being fair we cut the waves at a prodigious rate till about four o'clock in the morning; when a French boat coming to fetch the mail, to carry it to the post-house, we went on board the boat, and soon arrived at Calais.

We had our boxes brought on shore, & got them to the sign of the Silver Lion, a noted inn, and the post-house of that place. Here we took a coach for ourselves; & the next morning, having well refreshed ourselves, we all, viz. myself, my spouse, and chambermaid within the coach, and Thomas behind, set forward on our journey.

C H A P. XVIII.

They go to Paris. Relation of their travels. Roxana's daughter finds her out at the Hague; and the Consequence thereof.

WE were five days on our journey from Calais to Paris, which we went through with much satisfaction; for having fine weather and good attendance, we wanted nothing.

When we arrived at Paris, we went to a merchant's house of my husband's acquaintance in the Rue de la Bourle. This being a remote part of the city on the south side, & near several pleasant gardens, I thought it would not be improper to be a little indisposed, that my spouse might not press me to go and see the curiosities: and I had a tolerable pretence for my conduct, such as the fatigue of our journey, being among strangers, &c. so we staid at Parts eight days without going to any particular place; except one day to the gardens of Luxembourg, another to the church of Notre dame on the Isle of Paris, a third to the Hotel Royal des Invalides, a fourth to the gardens of the Thuilleries, a fifth to the suburbs of St. Laurence, to see the fair which was then holding there, a sixth to the gardens of the Louvre, a seventh to the playhouse, and the eighth staid all day at home, to write a letter to the Quaker, letting her know where I then was, and how soon we should go forward on our journey, but did not mention where we intended to settle, for indeed we had not settled that ourselves.

My spouse hired a stage coach to carry us to the city of Menin, from whence he intended to go by Water down the river Lys to Ghent, and there take coach to Isabella Fort opposite the city of Anvers, and cross the river at that place, &

go by land to Breda; and as he had agreed and settled this tour, I was satisfied, and we set out the next day. We went through several handsome towns and villages before we took water and by water, we went round part of the city of Courtray, and several fortified towns. At Anvers we hired a coach to Breda, where we staid two days to refresh ourselves, for we had been very much fatigued. As Williamstadt was situated so as to be convenient for our taking water for Rotterdam, we went thither, and taking shipping, had a safe and speedy voyage to Rotterdam.

As we had resolved in our journey to settle at the Hague, we did not intend to stay longer in Rotterdam than while my husband had our wealth delivered to him from the merchants it was consigned to. This business took us up a month, and being finished we left the city of Rotterdam, and went to the Hague.

I now lived in a place where I knew nobody, neither was I known, on which I was pretty careful who I became acquainted with. Our circumstances were very good, my husband loving to the greatest degree, and my servants respectful.

I was in this happy state of life when I wrote a letter to the Quaker, in which I gave her a direction where she might write to me; and about a fortnight after I received one from her, the contents whereof were as follow.

Dear Friend,

I Have had occasion to write to thee several times since we saw each other, but as this is my first letter, so it shall contain all the business thou would know. — When I had been at home a few days, my woman, Mrs. Amy, came to see me; so I took her to task, as thou orderedst me, about murdering thy pretended daughter. She declared her innocence,

but said, she had procured a false evidence to swear a large debt against her, and by that means had put her into prison, and afterwards feed the keeper to prevent her sending any letters or messages to any person whatever. This I suppose was the reason thou thoughtest she was murdered, because thou wert relieved from her by this base usage. However, when I heard it, I checked Amy very much, but was well satisfied to hear she was alive. After this, I did not hear from Amy for above a month, but, knowing thou wert safe, I sent a friend to pay the debt and release the prisoner; which he did, but was so indiscreet to let her know who was the benefactress. — My next care was to manage thy Spittal-fields business, which I did with much exactness. — The day that I received thy last letter Amy came to me again, and I read as much of it to her as she was concerned in: and she told me, she would come to thee as soon as possible. — Just as she was gone, that turbulent creature thy pretended daughter) came to me, to return thanks for the favour I had done her; so I accidentally laid down thy letter in the window while I went to fetch her a glass of cordial, for she looked sadly; but before I returned I heard the street door shut, on which I went back without the liquor, not knowing who might have come in: but missing her, I thought she might have gone to stand at the door, and the wind had blown it too; but I was never the nearer, she was sought for in vain. So when I believed she was quite gone, I looked to see if I missed any thing, & to my great surprise found your letter was gone, which she certainly took and made off with. I was so terrified at this unhappy mischance, that I fainted away, but would advise thee to prepare thyself to see her, for I verily believe she will come to thee. Before I went to fetch the unhappy cordial, she told me, that she was thy eldest daughter;

daughter; that the captain's wife was thy second daughter, and her sister; and that the youngest sister was dead: that there were two brothers, the eldest of whom had never been seen by any of them since he run away from an uncle at nine years of age; & that the youngest had been taken care of by a lady who kept her coach. She said, she was discharged out of Whitechapel goal by the bounty of a certain lady in that neighbourhood. That she did seek thee in all the towns and villages between London and Dover, but not finding thee she went to Deal, and at length, being tired of seeking thee, she returned by water to London; where she was no sooner arrived, than she was arrested & flung in the Marshalsea prison, where she lived in a miserable condition. In this state I was, said she, when you sent & paid the debt. After she had related all this she fell into a fit of crying, and broke out into loud exclamations against the people in England, who could be so unchristian to arrest her twice, when she never owed a shilling to any person in her life. But, added she, I will not stay in England; I will go to Paris, I know my mother did once live there; and if I do not find her, I will go all through Holland; for I will find out my mother or die in the pursuit.—I should be glad to hear of thine and thy spouse's welfare, & remain, with much sincerity, Thy true friend.

I concealed my surprise for a few minutes, till I got into a summer house at the bottom of the garden; but when I was shut in, I raved, tore, fainted away, swore, prayed, cried, wished, and promoted; but it all availed nothing: I was now stuck in to see the worst of it, let what would happen.

Soon after my husband came home, and perceiving I had been crying, asked me the reason. I told him, I had shed tears both for joy and sorrow; for, said I, I have received one of the tenderest letters

from Amy that was possible for a person to write, & she tells me in it that she will soon come over to see me, which so overjoyed me that I cried.

About ten days afterwards, as we were sitting at dinner with two gentlemen, one of the footmen came to the door, and said, my lady, here is a gentlewoman desires to speak with you, who says her name is mrs. Amy. I no sooner heard the name but I was ready to swoon, and ordered the footman to call Isabel, and ask the gentlewoman to walk up stairs with her into my dressing room; whither I soon followed. She kissed me for joy when she saw me, & I sent Isabell down stairs, for I was in pain till I had some private conversation with my old confidant.

There was not much ceremony between us before I told her all the material circumstances that had happened during her absence, particularly how the girl had got my letter at the Quaker's. Well says Amy, I find nothing is to ensue, if she lives, but your ruin; though, if I could have found her, after thy friend the Quaker discharged her from the Marshalsea, I had laid a scheme to have had her taken up for a theft, and by that means have got her transported for fourteen years. She will be with you soon, I'm sure; I believe she is now in Holland.

While we were in this discourse, I found the gentlemen who dined with us were going; so we came down stairs, & I went into the parlour to take leave of them. When they were gone, my husband told me, he had been talking with them about taking the title of count or earl of —; and, as an opportunity now offered, he was going to put it into execution.

I told him, I was so well settled as not to want any thing this world could afford me, but the continuance of his life and love. Well my dear, said he, the expence will be but small, &, as I promised you the title, it shall not be long before the honour shall

be brought home to your toilette. He was as good as his word, for that day week he brought the patient home to me in a small box covered with crimson velvet, and two gold hinges. There, my lady counsellors, says he, long may you live to enjoy that title.

As I was one day talking to Amy in a parlour, I saw my daughter pass by the window; and the street door being open, she came to the parlour door, and opening it without any ceremony, came boldly in. I was terribly amazed, and asked her who she wanted; but Amy's courage was quite lost, and she fainted away. Your servant, my lady, said she, I thought I should never have had the happiness to have seen you, till your agent the Quaker carelessly left your letter in her window. However, she is a good woman, & released me out of a gaol, in which that base wretch (pointing to Amy) caused me to be confined. As soon as Amy recovered, she flew at her like a devil, and between them there was such a noise as alarmed the servants, who all came up to see what was the matter. Amy had pulled down one of my husband's swords, drawn it, and was just going to run her through the body as the servants came in. Some of them secured Amy, others held the girl, & the rest were busy about me, to prevent my fainting, but I fell into strong fits; and in the interim they turned the girl out of the house, who was fully bent on revenge.

My lord was gone a hunting, & when I and Amy were thoroughly come to ourselves, we thought it most adviseable to find the girl out, and give her a handsome sum of money to keep her quiet. So Amy went out, but in all her searching could hear nothing of her. This made me very uneasy, for I guessed she would contrive to see my lord before he came home, and so it proved.

My lord came not home all that night, but next morning about ten o'clock he rapped at the door, &

the girl along with him. When it was opened, he went into the great parlour, and bid Thomas go call down his lady. This was the crisis; I now summoned up all my resolution, & took Amy down with me, to see if we could not baffle the girl.

When we entered the room, my lord was walking very gravely about it, but with his brows knit, and a wild confusion in his face. Pray, madam, says he, do you know this young woman? I expect a positive and speedy answer, without any equivocation.

Really, my lord, replied I, to give you an answer as quick as you desire, I declare I do not.

Do not, said he, what do you mean by that? She tells me that you are her mother, and that her father went away from you, and left two sons and two daughters besides herself, who were all sent to their relations for provision, after which you went away with a jeweller to Paris. Do you know any thing of this?

My lord, said the girl, there is mrs. Amy, who was my mother's servant at that time, knows very well I am the person I pretend to be. Then she gave him an account of every thing she knew of me, even in the character of Roxana, and described the dress so well that he knew it to be mine.

When she had gone thro' her story, now, madam, said he, let me see if I cannot tell whether she tells the truth in relation to you. When I first became acquainted with you it was on the sale of your jewels; you then passed for a jeweller's widow, which agrees with her saying you ran away with a jeweller. In the next place, you would not consent to marry with me about twelve years ago; I suppose then your real husband was living; for nothing else could tally with your condescension to me in every other article. Since that time your refusing to come to Holland in the vessel I provided for you, a distant

prospect of your being with child. Now, says he, she says you were the identical lady Roxana, who made so much noise in the world, and has even described the robe and head dress you wore on that occasion, and in that I know she is right. From all these circumstances, I may be assured that you have imposed greatly upon me, and instead of being a woman of honour I find you have been an abandoned wretch who had nothing to recommend you but a sum of money and a fair countenance, joined to a false unrelenting heart.

After this speech he walked about the room in a confused manner, and turning to Amy said, pray Mrs. Amy, give me your judgment in this case, Do you really think, as you knew them all from children, that this young woman is your lady's daughter?

Amy said at once she believed the girl was my daughter; and I really think your man Thomas is her eldest son, for the story he tells of his birth and education, suits exactly with our then circumstances.

Thomas was then called, and asked what he knew of his family; and he repeated all as before related.

Indeed, said my lord, it is my opinion that Thomas is one of your sons, do not you think the same; addressing himself to me. From the circumstances that have been related, my lord, said I, I now believe that they are both my children.

Pray, said my lord to my daughter, let me know what is become of your brothers and sisters; give me the best account of them that you can.

She gave the same account of herself which has been mentioned before; how she was brought up by an aunt, and when of age went out to service, and among the variety of places that she lived at the lady Roxana's was one. She said that Thomas was her mother's second child; the third child, which was a daughter, lived with the relation she did, and got a place to wait on a young lady whose parents were

going to settle in France; she went with them, and having staid at this gentleman's (who was a French merchant) two years, she was married with the consent of the family she lived in, and her master got her husband to be captain of a French and Holland coaster. And this was the very person, said she, whose ship you hired to come to Holland in; his wife was my own sister, consequently my lady's second daughter. As to my youngest sister she lived with the uncle Thomas run away from, and died of the small pox soon after. My youngest brother was put apprentice, when a gentlewoman (who I take to be Mrs Amy) came to his uncle, and had him taken from his master, & educated fit for a merchant, and then sent him abroad, where he is now settled, and in a fair way to get a large estate.

When she had finished her discourse, my lord turned to me, and said, that since I who was her mother had neglected doing my duty, he would take it on himself to provide both for the girl and Thomas. Adding, I must take care of the child I have had by you, or it will have but an indifferent parent to trust to in case of my decease.

This finished the discourse, and my lord withdrew into his study, leaving me, Amy, Thomas, and Susannah together. We sat staring at each other some time, when Amy said, I suppose my lady you have no further business with your daughter. No, said I, I have nothing to say to her, only she shall never be admitted into my presence again. The girl burst into tears, saying, pray, my lady, pardon me, for I am certain, had you been in my circumstances, you would have done the very action I have.

After this, I said to Thomas, keep what has been said to yourself, I will speak to you by and by. I then withdrew, leaving Amy with Susannah, who soon dismissed her, and followed me.

C H A P. XIX.

The marriage of Roxana's daughter. She and her husband go to the Indies.

MY lord carried his resentment so far that we parted beds ; and, in every other respect, kept himself so reserved that I seldom had an opportunity to speak to him.

Amy lay in my chamber ; and one morning we were talking of what the servants could say of the disturbance in the family. Pho ! said Amy, never trouble your head about that, for family quarrels are so common in noblemen's houses, both here and in England, that there are more families parted, both in bed and board, than live lovingly together. It can be no surprise to the servants, & if your neighbours would hear of it, they will only think you are imitating the airs of nobility, and have more of that blood in you than you appeared to have when you and your lord lived happily together.

The time, I own, went sluggishly on ; I had no company but Amy and Isabel ; for it was given out among the nobility and gentry, that I was very much indisposed, as I thought it a very improper time either to receive or pay visits.

In this manner I lived a month, and although I went morning, noon, & night into my lord's apartment to see him, I seldom had a quarter of an hour's discourse with him ; and sometimes his gentleman would be sent to tell me that his lord was busy but that I found was only to prevent my going to him when he was in an ill humour. The servants complained every day, as I heard by Amy, that his lordship eat little or nothing, and would sometimes shed tears when he sat down by himself to meals. And I thought he looked very thin, & had every other sign of a grieved or broken heart.

My daughter came again to my lord one morning, and staid with him in his study near two hours. In the evening, when I went to him as usual, he spoke to me in a freer stile than he had done since our breach. Well, madam, said he, I think I have provided for your daughter. As how, my lord, pray will you let me know. Yes, said he, as I have reason to think you will be concerned to hear of her welfare in any shape I will tell you. I have recommended her to a gentleman who is going factor for the Dutch East India company, to the coast of Malabar; and he, on my character, and the promise of a good fortune, will marry her very soon, for the companies ships sail in about twelve days; so in a fortnight, like a great many mothers in the world, you may rejoice at having got rid of one of your children, though you neither know where, how, or to whom.

I waited with the greatest impatience for this marriage, and when I found the day was fixed, I made bold to ask my lord if I should be present in his chamber when the ceremony was performed. But this favour was denied me. The wedding was performed in the evening in my lord's presence; and he permitted nobody to be there but a sister of the bridegroom's, and Thomas (now my lord's secretary or chief clerk) who was brother to the bride, & by my lord's order gave her away. After the ceremony was over, they all supped together, and the fortune, which was two thousand pounds, was paid.

Next morning my lord asked me, if I was willing to see my daughter before she sailed for the Indies.

My lord, said I, as the seeing her has been the occasion of this great breach between us, so if your lordship will let me have a sight of her, and a reconciliation with you at the same time, there is nothing can be more desirable to me.

Madam, said he, I would have you see your daughter to be reconciled to her, and give her your blessing at parting ; but our reconciliation will never be compleated till one of us approaches the verge of life if then; for I am a man that never forgive without ample amends, which is not in your power to make, unless you can alter the course of nature and recal time.

On hearing him declare himself so openly, I told him, that my curse, instead of my blessing, would pursue my daughter for being the author of all the mischiefs between us. And finding I was going to give way to a very violent passion, which would, perhaps, have been worse for me, so I left the room and went up to my own chamber, not without venting bitter reproaches both against my daughter and her unknown husband.

The day she went on shipboard she breakfasted with my lord; and the coach being ordered to the door, my daughter and her husband, the husband's sister, and my son Thomas, all went into it, in order to go to the house of a rich uncle of the bridegroom's, where they were to dine, and my lord went there in a sedan about an hour after. After dinner they all went on board the Indiaman, where my lord and Thomas staid till they were ready to sail, and then came home in the coach together.

C H A P. XX.

Roxana's son Thomas is provided for, and goes to Virginia.

NEXT morning, when I went to see my lord, he told me, that as he had handsomely provided for my daughter, his next care should be to provide for my son Thomas. in a handsome manner, before he concerned himself with the care of the son he had by me.

My lord and I lived with a secret discontent of each other for near a twelvemonth before I found any provision made for my son Thomas, and then I found that my lord bought him a very large plantation in Virginia, and was furnishing him out to go there in a handsome manner. He also gave him four quarter parts in four large West Indiamen, in which he boarded a large quantity of merchandize to traffick with when he came to the end of his voyage.

The last article to be managed was to engage my son a wife before he left Holland. It happened that the gentleman who was the seller of the plantation, had been a Virginia planter many years, but his life being in the decline, he came to Holland with intent to sell the plantation. This gentleman had brought over the pictures of all his family, which he shewed my lord, who on seeing the daughter's picture, ask'd how old she was. My lord, replied the planter she is twenty-two years of age. My lord then asked my son if he could like that young lady for a wife. Nothing, my lord, said Thomas, could lay me under a greater obligation, than your lordship's procuring me such a lady.

Now, sir, says my lord, what do you say to a match between this young gentleman & your daughter? their ages are agreeable; and if you can or will give her more fortune than he has, his shall be augmented.

This generous proposal of my lord's pleased the planter to the last degree, and he declared, that nothing could make him happier, for he was certain the young gentleman was as good a man as he appeared to be; and the marriage would be a great satisfaction to his wife, who would not only have the pleasure of seeing her daughter settled on what was our hereditary estate, but also see her married to a man of substance. And, says he, I will give 10,000l. as a portion with her; and when the young gentleman's for-

time is joined to that, I believe he will be the richest man in the whole American colonies of his age.

It was then considered between my lord & Thomas, that no woman, with a quarter of that fortune would venture herself over to the West Indies with a man who had ten times as much; so it being hinted to the planter that my lord had agreed to the proposals, they promised to meet the next morning to settle the affair; which according they did, and a lawyer was sent for to draw up the writings for the marriage settlement, &c.

There was nothing now remaining but my son's departure, & great dispatch was made that he might sail in one of his own ships, and take advantage of an English convoy, which was almost ready to sail. My lord sent several valuable presents to my son's intended wife, as did her father; and I sent her a curious set of china, with a silver tea kettle and lamp, tea-pot, sugar-dish, cream pot, tea spoons, &c. and as my lord had sent a gold repeater, I added to it a gold equipage, with my lord's picture hanging to it.

A few days after my son came to take leave of me, by my lord's order, and at parting with him I shed abundance of tears, to think I was then in an almost strange place, no child that could come near me, and under displeasure of my lord, that I had very little hopes of ever being friends with him again.

My life did not mend after my son was gone, all I could do would not persuade my lord to have any free conversation with me; & it was at this juncture that the foolish jade Amy, who was now advanced in years, was caught in a conversation with one of my lord's men, which was not to her credit. This coming to his ears, she was turned out of the house, and never suffered to come into it again during his life time, and I dared not to speak a word for her, lest he should retort, like mistress like maid.

I heard nothing of Amy for the first three months after she left me, till one day as I was looking out of a dining room window, I saw her pass by, & she looking up at the house saw me ; I made a motion to her to stay a little about the door, and, in the mean time, I wrote a note and dropped it out of the window, in which I told her how I lived in her absence, and desired her to write to me.

Soon after I received a letter from her, in which she told me that she had opened a coffee house, & furnished the upper part of it to let out in lodgings; that she kept two maids and a man, but that trade did not answer as she had reason to expect, and she was willing to leave it off, & retire into the country for the rest of her life, but was continually harrassed with such disturbance in her conscience as made her unfit to resolve upon any thing, & wished that there was a possibility to see me that she might open her mind to me with the same freedom she used to do, & have my advice.

C H A P. XXI.

Roxana's husband is seized with a consumption, makes a will, and soon after dies.

ABOUT this time it was that I perceived my lord began to look very pale and meagre, & I had a notion he was going into a consumption but dared not tell him so for fear he should say I was daily looking for his death, and was now overjoyed that I now saw a shadow of it; nevertheless he soon began to find himself in a very bad state of health. Had he died then without making a will it had been well for me, but he was not so near death as that, and the disorder, which proved a consumption, held him nine weeks and three days before it carried him off.

He now took country lodgings, most delightfully situated both for air and prospect, and had a man & maid to attend him; but though I begged on my knees to attend him, I could not get that favour granted.

Before he went out of town, he locked & sealed up every room in the house, excepting my bed-chamber, dressing room, and one parlour, and all the rooms and offices belonging to the servants! and as he had all my substance in his power, I was in a very poor state for a countess, and began sincerely to wish I had never seen him after I lived so happily at the Quaker's. For notwithstanding our estates when we first married, when joined together, amounted to 3376*l*. per annum, and near 18,000*l*. in ready money, besides jewels, plate, & goods of a considerable value; yet it was now dwindled to about 1000*l*. a year, & our home stock, viz. 18,000*l*. was entirely gone. For besides a handsome fortune my lord had given my daughter, and a very noble one to my son, he had flung himself into trade to the East and West Indies, and had sustained many great and uncommon losses, occasioned by his merchandize being mostly shipped in English bottoms, and that nation declaring war with the crown of Spain, he was one of the first and greatest sufferers by that power.

As my lord's weakness encreased so his ill temper encreased also. I could do no nothing to please him, & began to think he was only vexed because he found it was his turn to go out of the world first. The physician told him to settle his affairs as soon as he conveniently could; for, says he, although your death is not certain, yet still your life is very precarious.

The first thing he did after this, was to send for the son he had by me from the university, and he came the week afterwards. The next day my lord came home, & sending for six very eminent men who

lived at the Hague, he made his will, and signed it in the presence of them all; and they, with the chaplain, were appointed the executors of it, and guardians of my son.

As I was in a great concern at his making his will unknown to me, and before we were friends, so I thought it too serious a matter not to speak about. I did not know who to apply to first, but, after mature deliberation, sent for the chaplain, and he coming to me, I desired him to give me the best information he could concerning it. My lady, said he, you cannot be so unacquainted with the duty of my function, and the trust my lord has reposed in me, but you must know I should be highly criminal in relating any thing of that nature to any one. All that I can say on this head is, that I would advise you to make friends with my lord as soon as you can, and get him to make another will, or else take the best care of yourself you possibly can; for I assure your ladyship, if my lord dies, you are but poorly provided for.

These last words of the chaplain most terribly alarmed me; I knew not what to do; but at last I went to my lord's chamber. After enquiring how he did, and hearing he was far from well, I told him, I heard he had made his will. Yes, said he, I have, and what then? Why, my lord, replied I, I thought it would not have been derogatory to both our honours for you to have mentioned it to me before you did it, and have let me know in what manner you intended to settle your estate, this would have been but acting like a man to his wife, even had you married me without a fortune; but as you received so handsomely with me, you ought to have considered it was my substance, as well as your own you were disposing of.

My lord looked somewhat staggered at what I said, and, pausing a while, answered, that he thought, &

looked upon it as a granted opinion, that after a man married a woman, all that she was in possession of was his, except he had made a prior writing or settlement. Beside, my lady, added he, I have married both your children, and given them very noble fortunes, especially your son; I have also had very great losses in trade both by land and sea since you delivered your fortune to me; and even at this time, notwithstanding the appearance we make in the world, I am not worth a third of what I was when we came to settle in Holland. And then here is our own son shall be provided for in a handsome manner by me, for I am very certain there will be but little care taken of him if I leave any thing in your power for that purpose, witness Thomas and Susannah.

My lord, said I, I am not come into your chamber to know what care you have taken of our child. I doubt not but you have acted like a father by it. What I would be informed in, is what I am to depend upon in case of your decease, which, however, I hope may be a great many years off yet. You need not concern yourself about that, said he, your son will take care that you shall not want; but yet I will tell you too, said he, that it may prevent your wishing for my death. I have, in my will left all I am possessed of to my son, excepting about 15,00l. out of which there is 500l. for you, 500l. among my executors, and the other 500l. is to bury me, pay for my funeral expences, and what is overplus I have ordered to be equally divided among my servants.

I thought I should have sunk when I heard him pronounce those words. I raved like a mad woman, and, at the end of my discourse, told him, that I did not value what could happen to me, even if I was forced to beg my bread, for I would stand the test of my own character.

My lord's death began to be the daily discourse of the family, I thought he might be more reconciled, if I entered into the arguments again which we had together before, but all I could say was of no avail till I importuned him on my knees with a flood of tears. Madam, said he, what would you have me do. Do, my lord, said I, only be so tender to my years & circumstances as to alter your will; for I declare I had rather be a beggar than live under my son's jurisdiction.

I saw the lawyer come out of the chamber first, but was above asking him any questions. The next were the executors and chaplain; I asked the last now they came to have words; he did not answer me directly; but begged to know whose pleasure it was to have the codicil annexed. It was mine, sir, replied I, and it made me very uneasy before I could have the favour granted. He only replied by saying, ah, poor lady! the favour as you are pleased to term it is not calculated for any benefit to you. think the worst you can of it.

The next day, the physicians told my lord, it was time for him to settle his worldly affairs, and prepare for hereafter. When I heard this, I went into his chamber, and kneeling by his bedside, kissed him with great earnestness, and begged him, if I had ever disobliged him in any respect to forgive me. He sighed, and said he most freely forgave me: and, as he had but a few minutes to live, he hoped I would retire, and leave him with our son and the chaplain. Then bidding me a long farewell, I withdrew to my chamber almost drowned in tears. My son soon followed me out, leaving the chaplain with his father offering up his prayers to heaven, which while he was doing, my lord laid his head gently on the pillow, and turning on his left side, departed without so much as a groan, in the fifty-seventh year of his age.

As soon as he was dead, the executors met together to open the will and take care of my son's effects. I was present when it was read; but how terribly I was frightened at hearing the codicil repeated, any one may imagine by the substance of it; which was to this effect. That if I had any more given me after his decease than the 500l. he had left me, the 500l. left to the executors, and 1000l. of my son's estate, was to be given to such poor families at the Hague as were judged to be in the greatest want of it. But this was not all, my son was tied to much harder conditions, for if it was known that he gave me any relief, let my condition be ever so bad, either himself, by his order, or by any manner of device, way, or contrivance he could think of, one half of his estate, which was particularly mentioned was to devolve to the executors for ever, and if they granted me ever so small a favour, that sum was to be equally divided among the several parishes where they lived for the benefit of the poor.

Any person would have been surpris'd to have seen how we sat all staring at each other, for though it was signed by all the executors, they knew not the contents of it till it was publickly read, excepting the chaplain, and he had told me the codicil had better never been added.

C H A P. XXII.

The whole concludes with the miseries and lowness of life Roxana and her maid Amy fall into.

I Was now in a fine dilemma, had the title of countess, with 500l. and nothing else to subsist on, but a very good wardrobe of cloaths, which my son and the executors did not look upon as my late lord's property, and which, indeed were worth treble the sum I had left me.

I immediately removed from the lodgings, and left them to bury the body where they thought proper, & retired to a private gentleman's house about a mile from the Hague. I was now resolved to find out Amy, & went to the house where she had lived; but finding the house empty, enquired for her among the neighbours, who gave various accounts of what had become of her: but one of them had a direction left at his house where she was removed. I went to the place, and found the house shut up, and all the windows broke, the sign taken down; and the rails, and benches taken from before the door. However as nobody knew me here, I went into a shop to buy some trifles, and asked who had lived in the opposite house. Really, madam, says the woman, I do not well know, but it was a woman who kept girls for gentlemen; she went on in this wickedness for some time, till a gentleman was robbed there of a watch and his diamond ring, on which the women were all taken up, and committed to the house of correction, but the young ones are now at liberty, and keep about the town. Pray, said I, what may have become of the old beast that could be the ruin of the young creatures? Why, I do not well know, says she, but I have heard that as all the goods were seiz'd upon, she was sent to the poor-house, but soon after appearing that she had the French disease to a violent degree, was removed to an hospital to be taken care of, but I believe she will never live to come out; & if she should be so fortunate, the young gentleman that was robbed, finds that she was the guilty person, and intends to prosecute her to the utmost rigour of the law; and he is a young person of a very great fortune.

I was sadly surprized to hear this character of Amy for I thought whatever house she kept, that the high day of her blood was over, but I found that she was unwilling to be taken for an old woman.

A few days after I went pretty near the place where I heard she was, and hired a poor woman to go and enquire how Amy — did, and whether she was likely to do well; the woman brought me word that the matron said, the person whom I enquired after died two days before in a salivation, and was buried the last night.

I was sorry to hear of Amy's unhappy and miserable end, for when she first came into my service she was a sober girl, very witty and brisk, but never impudent, and her notions in general were good, till my forcing her as it were to have an intrigue with the jeweller.

A few days after this I went to see my son, the earl of —. He received me in a very courteous manner, and we talked together near an hour upon general things, but had no particular discourse upon my late lord's effects. Among other things, he told me, his guardians had advised him to go to the university for four years longer, when he would be of age, and his estate somewhat repaired. I asked him, if it would be looked upon as an encroachment upon his father's will, if I took Isabel to live with me. No, my lady, replied he, as she will be dismissed from me, she is certainly at full liberty to do for herself as well and as soon as she possibly can.

I had now myself and Isabel to provide for, handsome lodgings to keep, and nothing but my principal money to live on, I mean what I had in my pocket at my lord's death, for I had not received my 500*l*. I began to think what way of life it would be best for me to fall into; and having been long revolving in my mind, I at last fixed on merchandize as the most genteel and profitable. Accordingly, I went to a merchant, who had been an intimate of my late lord, and letting him know how my circumstances were, he heartily condoled with me, and told me, he could help me to a share in two vessels, one

going a trading voyage, the other a privateering. I resolved by the merchant's advice to have a share in the trader, and the next day he persuaded me to be concerned in the privateer. Being told that the two shares would come to 1500l. I went to the executors and received my 500l. and, in two days, disposed of as many of my cloaths as fetched near 1100l. which joined to the above sum, I carried to the merchant's, where writings were drawn & delivered to me. The trader was so well manned and armed, as well as the privateer, that the partners would not consent to insure them, and out they both sailed, tho' from different ports, and I depended on getting a good estate between them.

About two months after, news was current about the Hague of a privateer and merchantman having an engagement in the Mediterranean, in which action both the privateer and trader were lost. Soon after their names were known, & my partners found they were both our ships; but unhappily sailing under false colours, and having never seen one another they had a very smart engagement, till the privateer was sunk by a shot between wind and water, & the trader blown up. There were only two hands of the trader, and three of the privateer who escaped; and they all met at the house of one of the partners, and confirmed the melancholy story, and to me fatal loss.

Having but little money and few cloaths left, I proposed to Isabel, who would live with me still, to remove from my lodgings, and retire to Amsterdam; where, being unknown, I might turn myself into some little way of business, and work for that bread which had too often been squandered away upon trifles. And to hasten my removing to Amsterdam, I recollected I was involved in debt, and my creditors threatened me daily with an arrest to make me pay them.

I soon discharged my lodgings, and went with Isabel to Amsterdam, thinking to give up all I could raise in the world, by the sale of every thing I had, and go into one of the Proveniers Houses, where I should be settled for life; but as I could not produce money enough for it, I turned it into a coffee-house, near the Stadt House, where I might have done well. But as soon as I was settled one of my Hague creditors arrested me for a debt of 75l. and not having a friend in the world to advance the money, I was, in a shameful & destitute condition, carried to the common gaol, where poor Isabel followed me with showers of tears, leaving me inconsolable for my great misfortunes.

The continuation of the life of Roxana, by Isabel Johnson, who had been her waiting maid.

After my lady was thrown into goal, she gave her mind up wholly to devotion, was a sincere penitent, and in every action had the behaviour of a christian. By degrees all the things she had in the world were sold, and she began to find an inward decay on her spirits. In this interval she repeated to me all the passages of her ill spent life, & thoroughly repented of every bad action. And having, as she believed, made her peace with God, she died of mere grief, on the second of July, 1742, in the sixty-fifth year of her age; and was decently buried by me in the church-yard belonging to the Lutherans, in the city of Amsterdam.

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